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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Gromyko springs visit on Poland

Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, is to pay a surprise visit to Poland within the next few days.

The trip, described as brief and friendly by Soviet news agency Tass, will underline Moscow's concern over political reforms.

He is expected to arrive before the start of the crucial congress of the Polish Communist Party on July 14 which is scheduled to reaffirm Warsaw's commitment to reform and, possibly, vote for leadership changes.

Poznan ceremony

Some 150,000 Poles gathered in Poznan for the first official commemoration of the 1956 uprising there in which 74 died and 600 were injured. Grabski elected to congress; industrial production down. **Page 2**

Tehran blast

Tehran headquarters of the dominant Islamic Republican Party was blown up.

Iran minister

Iran's three-man presidential council approved architect and publisher Hussein Mousavi as foreign minister. Low turnout in Iran by-elections, **Page 2**

More border talks

India and China agreed to hold further talks on their border dispute. **Back Page**

Safety study halt

A halt to safety studies of a £5m redesign of on-load refuelling systems for advanced gas cooled reactors was ordered. **Page 3**

Pay inquiry

The Government will set up an inquiry into Civil Service pay. **Page 6**

Livestock ban

Tests for foot and mouth disease were carried out on a farm at Hawarden, Clwyd, North Wales. Livestock movements in the area were banned.

BBC campaign

MPs from all major parties are to meet today to launch a campaign to reverse the Government's decision on BBC foreign language service cuts. **Editorial comment, Page 14**

Fodder crop hit

Lack of rain hit the fodder crop in the farming region in southern Russia.

Springbok squad

Springbok Rugby Union announced their 30-man squad for their controversial New Zealand tour.

Premiums fall

Sun Alliance Group says some motorists insured with them could pay less for motor insurance renewal. **Page 3**

Hotel blaze

Thirty people, many in their nightclothes, fled as fire swept through a hotel in Builth Wells.

Bumper turnout

AA reported the "queue of the year" — 17 miles long on the A4 and M4 for the air show at RAF Greenham Common, Berkshire.

Briefly . . .

Lone sailor Paul Rodgers set out to circle the world twice, non stop.

Ground frosts were recorded in many parts of the UK.

Footballer Kevin Keegan and athlete Brendan Foster were among 12,000 taking part in a run from Newcastle to South Shields.

BUSINESS

Consumer lending by banks rising

UK BANK LENDING to consumers and for house purchases is rising rapidly, offsetting a fall in credit demand from manufacturing industry. **Back Page; *editorial comment*, Page 14**

● **PRIVATE ACCOUNTANTS** would be given the annual audits of many English and Welsh local authorities under Government proposals for an Audit Commission. **Back Page**

● **U.S. ADMINISTRATION** expects a "major, favourable" turnoround in financial markets' inflationary fears after the Budget plan victory in Congress. **Back Page**

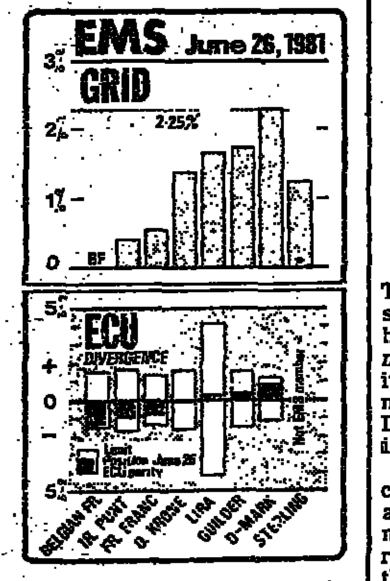
● **EUROCREDIT** market borrowing rose from $32.63bn to a record $38.02bn (£19.47bn) in the first half of this year, according to Morgan Guaranty Trust. **Page 17**

● **TEXASGULF** directors will decide on Thursday their response to **Elf Aquitaine's $2.5bn (£1.28bn)** bid for the U.S. mining and energy company.

● **P & O.** Britain's largest shipping company, strongly opposes European Ferries' plan to buy Sealink UK, the cross-Channel ferry operation owned by British Rail. **Page 3**

● **SEAT,** Spain's biggest car producer, reported 1980 losses almost 35 per cent higher at Pts 20.5bn (£109m). **Page 24**

● **NORCROS** the construction and consumer goods group, improved pre-tax profits from £19.18m to £22.36m in the year to March 31. Dividend is maintained at 5.52p. **Page 16**



The chart shows the two constraints on European Monetary System exchange rates. The upper grid, based on the weakest currency in the system defines the cross rates from which no currency (except the lira) may move more than 2¼ per cent. The lower chart gives each currency's divergence from its "central rate" against the European Currency Unit (ECU), itself a basket of European currencies.

● **POLITICAL** events played a major part in the fortunes of European currencies last week. Attention remain focussed on interest rate trends, particularly in the U.S., but continued fears of Soviet intervention in Poland created nervous conditions around the D-mark, while the French franc appeared increasingly vulnerable following news of Communist appointments to the French Government.

Both currencies weakened against the dollar and Swiss franc, with the French franc touching a record low against the U.S. currency, but there was little change within the EMS itself.

The D-mark was again the strongest member, ahead of the Dutch guilder, lira and Danish krone. The franc finished slightly firmer than the Irish punt, with the Belgian franc still the weakest currency, but well within its divergence limit.

CONTENTS

U.S. economy: behind Washington's buzzwords 14
France: why Mitterrand included Communists ... 15
Lombard: Peter Riddell on UK forecasts 12
Management: Coat Paton's world labour costs 11
Technology: storing millions of words on plastic 10
Editorial comment: cash wages to workers; BBC cuts 14
Justinian: injury cases puzzle courts 12
Survey: Latin America ...... Insert

Arts 13
Appointments 2
Building Notes ... 22
Businessman's Dry. 6
Company News ... 16
Crossword 12
Entertainment Gde. 12
Euromarkets 17
Financial Diary ... 18
Int. Co. News 24
Labour 6
Letters 15
Lex 28
Lombard 12
Management 11
Men and Matters 14
Money & Exchanges 24
O'seas News 2
Party. Diary 4
Racing 12
Share Information 26-27
Sport 13
Technology 10
Today's Events ... 15
TV and Radio 12
UK News 3-4
Unit Trusts 25
Weather 28
World Econ. Ind. 2
World Stock Mkts. 23
World Trade 23

INTERIM STATEMENTS
HSC 16
Lake View Inv. ... 28

PROSPECTUS
MEMEC 19-21
ASBAH's Con Gde 7-9

Israeli election photo-finish forecast after opinion poll

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

THE ISRAELI General Election tomorrow looks set for a photo-finish. According to the latest opinion poll the Labour Party has staged a late come-back, and is neck-and-neck *with* the *ruling* Likud block of Mr Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister.

The news prompted jubilation at Labour Party headquarters, where the feeling had been growing that the surge of support for the Likud in the last two months had peaked last week.

Gloom had permeated the Labour election headquarters since early in May, as Mr Begin *hogged the limelight* with the Lebanese missile crisis and then the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

But it lifted yesterday, and there was a new mood of confidence among politicians and party workers.

The latest poll, published in the Jerusalem Post, forecast Likud and Labour each winning 42 seats in the 120-member Knesset. The same poll a week earlier forecast Likud taking 49 to Labour's 37. The remaining seats were shared by 11 other parties. *The Likud won 43 seats in the* last election, 10 more than Labour.

Officials in the Labour Party drew additional comfort from the fact that the poll was conducted before the forceful performance of Mr Shimon Peres, the party leader, in a television debate with Mr Begin last Thursday. Labour's chances have also been enhanced by his appoint*ment on the same day of a* once bitter rival, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, former Prime Minister, to the Shadow Cabinet in an attempt to heal a party rift.

Labour expects that these events will further boost its prospects of emerging as the largest party in the Knesset, and thus the one called on by the President to form a coalition.

If Labour does have a dramatic come-back tomorrow it will demonstrate just how fluid and unstable the political arena is in Israel.

At the beginning of the year opinion polls forecast a landslide victory for Labour, with 60 seats in the Knesset, and ignominious defeat for the ruling Likud

Since then Mr Begin's party has been gaining steadily at the expense of Labour, and earlier this month overtook the Opposition party in the opinion polls.

CBI urges smaller wage settlements in next pay round

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

A MAJOR assulat on trade union wage expectations in the coming pay round was launched by the CBI yesterday. Employers are being told to settle "very substantially below" the level of their last agreements; regardless of their own circumstances.

The CBI is refusing to name any kind of target, but is clearly looking for settlements of 5 per cent or less, following the 8 per cent average recorded in manufacturing industry since January. *It is also telling employers* to give no more ground on working hours.

Although the CBI argues that the "going rate" has lost its force in the last year, it is still concerned about trade union pressures for comparability. Therefore better-off companies have been warned that high settlements from them would undermine the CBI's objective of a sharp reduction across the board. Ability to pay should not be an excuse, the CBI says. CC PAY 3

In briefings for some 200 *senior businessmen from large* companies, the CBI has warned that failure to bring settlements down sharply will mean unemployment climbing from 3m to 3.5m and beyond from next year, with the rate of price inflation staying well into double figures.

One unspoken conclusion is that a 1981-82 pay round similar to the one just ending would give the Government an almost impossible task at the next General Election.

The CBI's wages policy was *anticipated* by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday when he declared that pay settlements must be considerably lower next time. The Chancellor, who attended one of the CBI's briefings, likewise refused to mention figures.

The first public sector test of these attempts to keep wage rises well below the rate of price increases could come in the coal industry. The National Union of Mineworkers, which will be lodging a claim around September for November 1 settlement, is almost certain to *endorse a 25 per cent demand* at its conference in 10 days' time.

In the public services, where *unions are expecting the* Chancellor to set a cash limit of little more than 3 per cent this autumn, there are plans for mobilising the whole public service sector under the auspices of the TUC in order to fight the limit.

But some early support for the CBI's wage drive may come from Lucas Industries, which is nearing a 5 per cent settlement despite threats of strike action.

Last night, the TUC claimed there had been collusion. Mr Len Murray, general secretary, said: "All that these carefully staged double acts between the Government and the CBI show —first on industrial relations, *now on pay — is that the CBI* is putting its political allegiance before its members' own real interests."

Mr David Basnett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, said it was "economic nonsense" to suggest that lack of demand could be cured by a further cut in workers' living standards.

The CBI's last-chance analysis of Britain's economic prospects was published yesterday with a warning from Sir Terence Beckett, its director-general, that Britain's productivity record had been "appallingly bad" in the past few years.

He urged employers not to

Continued on Back Page

Civil Service dispute, Page 6

London Business School forecasts slow recovery

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT may have scope for a 2p to 3p cut in the basic rate of income tax by the *next election while sticking* to its public borrowing and monetary guidelines, the London Business School argues in a major new assessment.

The Business School's forecasts are cautiously optimistic, at least by comparison with many recent projections. A slow recovery *in output should begin* this year, with a stronger upturn in 1982-83, while the inflation rate should drop into single figures next year. But unemployment is likely to be about 2.7m (for adults in the UK) in 1982-83 and could rise slightly in 1984.

From the government's point of view a key feature is the expected favourable movement in public sector finances, creating the scope for tax cuts before an election in 1983 or 1984.

The Business School expects that the combination of a resumption of economic growth, a recovery in company profits, rising revenues from the North Sea oil operations and stable or falling public expenditure will help to reduce public sector borrowing from an estimated £10¼bn in 1981-82 to *£7¼bn in 1982-83 and even less* in later years.

Public borrowing is expected to decline in line with the targets of the government's medium-ter financial strategy and still leave room for tax cuts.

These projections are likely to be regarded as too optimistic by some other economists who take a more pessimistic view of the likely rise in output and the size of tax revenue from North Sea oil.

The Business School points out that some of the more optimistic aspects of its forecast—notably the deceleration of inflation, the recovery of profits and the pick-up in private investment in 1982—depend crucially on an expected sharp improvement in productviity over the next couple of years *following the shake-out of* labour in 1980.

The Business School is more optimistic about the prospects *for recovery than neo-Keynesian* bodies such as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research because it believes that the rundown in

Continued on Back Page

Details, Page 4; Lombard, Page 12

Fine Gael-Labour coalition likely

BY STEWART DALBY

DR GARRET FITZGERALD, leader of Ireland's main Opposition party, Fine Gael, said last night that he was confident of being able to form a Government when the Dail reassembles on Tuesday.

This follows a decision at a special conference of 1,300 delegates of the Labour Party, the country's third largest grouping, to enter a coalition with Fine Gael.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, also intends to attempt forming a Government, but after the Fine Gael-Labour link-up it seems that Mr Haughey's Fianna Fail will not manage to gain an overall majority in the 166-seat Dail.

Fianna Fail lost its record overall majority of 16 seats in the old *148-seat Dail* in the inconclusive General Election earlier this month.

The party, which regained power in 1977, won 79 seats. Dr FitzGerald's Fine Gael party won 65 seats, Labour 15, and there are eight so-called independents

Two independents are H-block prisoners in the Maze outside Belfast, and so will not take their seats. The balance of power lies with the remaining six.

Virtually all have been cagey about revealing their voting intentions in the new 164-seat Dail.

Election of a Prime Minister on Tuesday is preceded by a vote for a Speaker, and this could further effect the Parliamentary arithmetic.

The Labour Party's decision to enter a coalition, by a large majority of the delegates yesterday, was a considerable personal triumph for Mr O'Leary, who became leader because of the defeat of Mr Frank Cluskey in the election.

The two parties formed a Government between 1973 and 1977 but were swept from power in the Fianna Fail landslide of 1977.

There was no formal pre-election pact this time, partly because of policy differences. Labour did badly. *Though* its seats dropped by just one, its share of the vote under the complicated proportional repre*sentation system fell sharply.*

The new alliance pact worked out in 10 days of intense negotiations between Mr O'Leary *and Dr Fitzgerald includes con*cessions on tax benefits for the lower-paid and moves to reduce unemployment.

Any Government formed would be unstable because of the narrowness of the majority.

France to aid textile group

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

THE NEW French Government has displayed its determination to take the affairs of the troubled Agache-Willot textile and retail concern firmly in hand. It has won its bid to have a legal administrator appointed for the whole group.

A commercial court in Lille, where the group is based, originally preferred to accept the management's application for judicial *settlement pro*cedures to be applied to its manufacturing arm, Boussac-Saint-Frères, which accounts for *only a third of its* FFr 12bn ($2.1bn) annual turnover.

However, in a further decision it has provided for an overall *administrator* to supervise rescue plans.

The administrator, M Albert Chassagnon, will act in conjunction with the receivers appointed *for* Boussac-Saint-Freres and with government officials. M Chassagnon was given a similar job last week at France-Belge, a *bankrupt rolling stock manu*facturer.

Pressure for the move had also come from the unions *which are opposed to a break-up* of the group's activities.

Communists in French Government, Page 15

EEC members face rebuke on economic policies

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

EEC HEADS of Government meeting in Luxembourg today will receive one of the sternest rebukes ever from the European Commission. They will be told that present economic trends risk plunging the Community into "serious financial and monetary instability," and warned of four more years of rising unemployment, high inflation and only modest growth.

The commission's warning will be the sombre backcloth to the leders' efforts to agree the Community's approach at the world economic summit in Ottawa *on July 20-21.*

External political affairs will also be discussed. The two-day meeting is expected to launch a *call for an international con*ference to secure Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

There have been signs that *this European initiative is* arousing some interest in Moscow.

The commission is clearly becoming exasperated by the failure of some governments—notably Italy, Denmark, Ireland and Belgium—to take sharp enough action to curb their budget deficits.

But its report to the meeting rebukes all governments for complacency.

It says that the new cyclical recovery which should begin in the second half of the year will not be enough to promise a lasting improvement in employment prospects.

Deep and enduring policy changes, says the commission, are needed to secure the necessary increases in investment and savings, and the equally necessary moderation of consumption, employment costs and current public expenditure.

The issues are being abundantly debated, but not sufficiently acted upon, leading to a state of affairs which risk eroding the achievements of the Common Market and of the European Monetary System.

The commission has given the summit a preview of its cautious medium term economic forecasts. They assume a moderate recovery between now and 1985 with an annual average rate of growth for the EEC as a whole of 2½ per cent, and a possible decleration of inflation from 11 per cent to 7½ per cent.

Unemployment, however, is likely to continue rising from the current 7.7 per cent because of the 1 per cent annual expansion of the labour force.

The Community's leaders *who are about to launch an* initiative on Afghanistan, will also be concerned by the fate of an old initiative on the Middle East.

But in the absence of a detailed U.S. approach, and with the outcome of the Israeli general election uncertain, the *summit is likely to mark time* on the issue.

Jonathan Carr writes from Bonn: West Germany has found a new source of complaint about Britain's EEC policy—just as it seemed the two countries' interests might be closer than ever before.

Government officials here express astonishment over Britain's support for an accord reached last week on EEC officials' salaries.

They feel the agreement amounts to indexation of EEC pay for years to come. West *Germany had long opposed such* an arrangement on grounds of budgetary stringency, and had expected support from the British.

Officials claim that private contacts had indicated that such support would be forthcoming.

Bonn is at loss to explain the British attitude, but notes that it was the Council of Foreign Ministers—not Finance Ministers—which took the decision. The Germans therefore question whether the result fully reflects the views either of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or of Mrs Thatcher.

Industry to encourage non-executive directors

By Christine Moir

City institutions, the Bank of England and the Confederation for British Industry (CBI) are to set up a joint bureau to promote the appointment of non-executive directors to company boards.

The bureau's chairman will be Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of the construction company which bears his name. He is a *director of the Bank of England* and President of the CBI.

A chief executive will be named in August and the *bureau will start operating in* September.

Although its headquarters will be the CBI's offices at Centrepoint, the bureau will be responsible directly to its sponsors — the Bank, the Stock Exchange, the Institutional Shareholders' Committee (representing the insurance companies, pension funds, and investment and unit trusts), the Accepting Houses Committee, the London *Clearing Banks and the Scottish* banks.

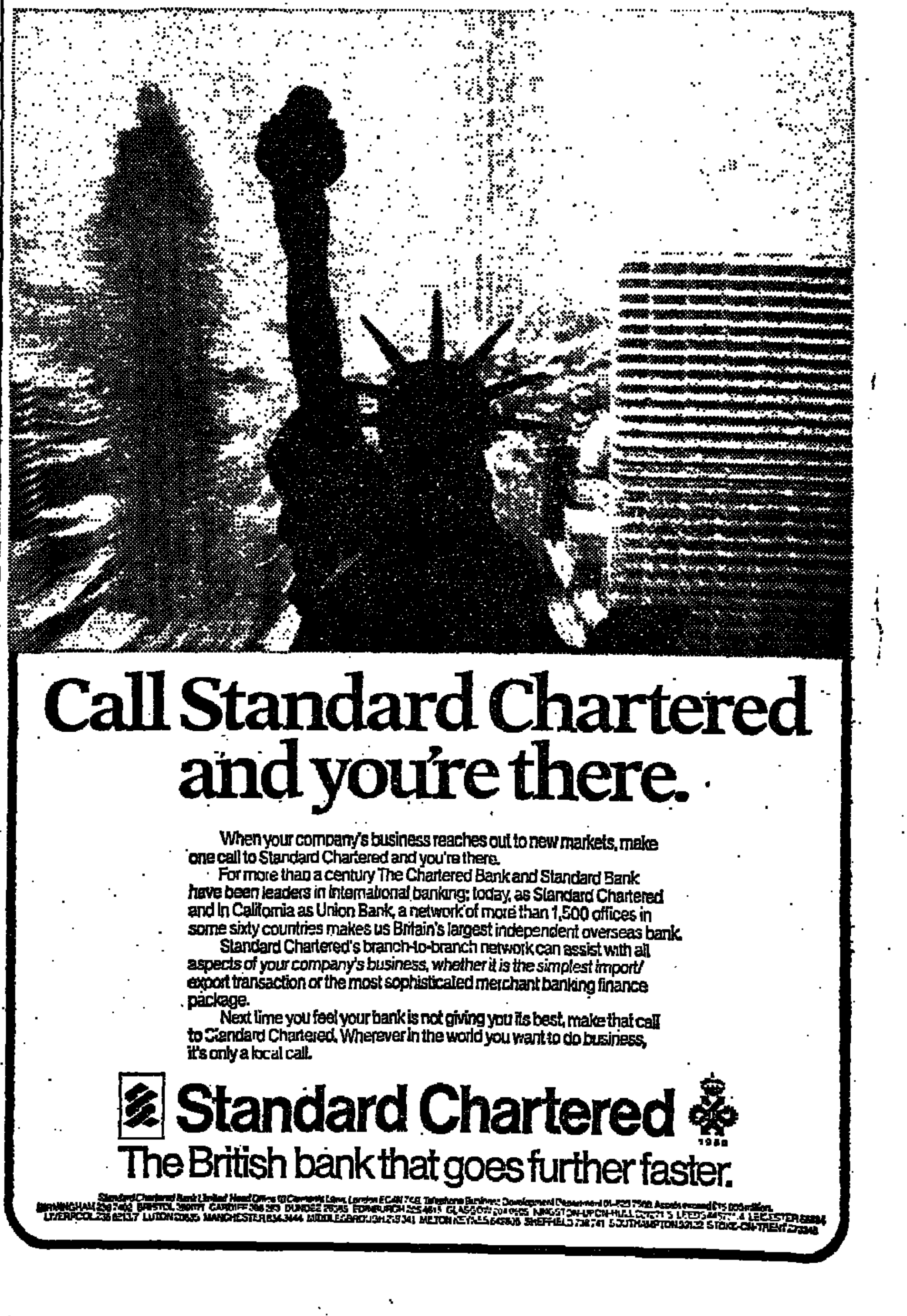
The move is a direct response to calls from the City, Westminster and industry for investing institutions to become more closely involved with companies whose shares they hold.

The question of shareholders' responsibilities and the need to strengthen the boardrooms of British industry was one of the central issues debated by the Wilson Committee on the City which reported last year.

At one stage the Department of Trade and the Treasury were *known to favour the establish*ment of two-tier boards, as German companies have, with non-executive directors at the highest level making special independent reports to shareholders on management's performance.

A second proposal, which at one stage was also favoured by politicians, was for legislation which would require large companies to appoint at least three

Continued on Back Page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Polish industrial production slumps

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

INDUSTRIAL production in Poland fell by 11.7 per cent during the first five months of the year, according to the economic weekly Zycie Gospodarcze. In May alone, the value of industrial output slumped 18.3 per cent compared with May, 1980.

Shortages of raw materials and imported goods are reported to be the main reason for the continuing deterioration.

May coal output fell by 27.7 per cent compared with last year. The drop follows the introduction of the five-day week won by miners after strikes last autumn. This year, mines will be working 21 per cent fewer days than they did in 1979.

Daily output, however, is higher than in the past and the only short-term solution to the problem is either for the miners to agree to work another day or to employ more labour. The *prospects of success in either* direction are remote despite the preliminary agreement reached last week by the Government with Solidarity under which both sides agreed to look for ways of raising output this year.

Meanwhile, incomes continue to outstrip production results and deliveries of consumer goods. Incomes in the first five months of the year grew by 23.7 per cent compared with 1980.

Most of the increase is a result of wage settlements agreed after last summer's strikes. One-fifth of the increase, however, comes from wage increases paid out contrary to *the wage freeze policy.* Pressure on wages is obviously high, especially as overtime has dropped 19 per cent.

The efforts to match this growth in income with goods in the shops is leading to a drop in stocks. Consumer goods produced grew by a mere 0.8 per cent while cereals were up by 8.7 per cent.

Retail prices rose by almost 8 per cent in the first five months of the year. In May, deliveries of cigarettes dropped by 19.7 per cent, safety matches by 7.4 per cent and washing powders by 27 per cent.

Reuter adds from Boston: The U.S. relief agency Care said it will start sending food parcels to Poland next month at the request of Polish officials.

The shortage of hard currency shows up particularly in the 29 per cent fall in imports from the West in May. Exports to the hard currency countries dropped by 17.5 per cent in May and to the Comecon countries by 21.5 per cent.

Hardliner elected to congress

BY OUR WARSAW CORRESPONDENT

Mr Kania . . . strong backing required

MR TADUSZ GRABSKI, the Polish party hardliner who earlier this month led an unsuccessful attempt to topple Mr Stanislaw Kania, its leader, will be a delegate to next month's party *congress. He was chosen* by an overwhelming majority at the *Konin* province party where he was first secretary until 1979.

The move means Mr Grabski will be able to make a bid for re-election to the party leadership at the congress.

In Warsaw at the weekend, Mr Kania struggled to ensure that Mr Stanislaw Kociolek, the first secretary, be re-elected as party chief in the capital. Mr Kociolek was opposed by many delegates because of his role in *the 1970 workers' demonstration* against food price rises, when many shipyard workers lost their lives.

Mr Kania spoke twice during a confused and bitter debate to assure the delegates that Mr Kociolek was not responsible for the massacre. He appealed for Mr Kociolek's re-election "as an act of political trust in myself." Mr Kociolek was finally elected by a majority of 115.

Poznan yesterday celebrated the 25th anniversary of another working class protest with the unveiling of a monument to the memory of victims of fighting between workers and the police in June 1956. Mr Lec Walesa, the head of Solidarity, told a huge crowd that the working class would never allow itself to be divided. "The workers are not counter-revolutionary. They are for honesty and truth."

Low turnout in Iran by-elections

By Terry Povey in Tehran

ONLY one-sixth of those eligible to vote in Iran's Parliamentary by-elections on Friday took part, according to figures released by the Interior Ministry yesterday. Nineteen separate polls were held to fill vacancies in the national assembly and in most cases produced overwhelming victories for candidates supporting the dominant fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party.

Despite the success of its candidates, the Government may be concerned at the poor turnout in this first test of opinion on the course of the revolution since the overthrow of Mr Abol hassan Bani-Sadr, the former President, two weeks ago. In the 15 constituencies for which information on the size of the electorate is available, a total of 291,132 votes were cast from an estimated electorate of around 1.8m.

The poll in the 19 constituencies which ranged from the Turkish-speaking north west, along the Caspian coastline and into the north eastern Khorassan province, plus several seats in the southern and south eastern Gulf provinces, was also well down

● Hojatolislam Ali Khamenei, *Tehran's Friday prayer leader,* and a key member of the fundamentalists, was yesterday reported to be recovering from an assassination attempt on Saturday.

French Communists in disarray

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

INTERNAL UPHEAVAL in the French Communist Party following its poor showing in the recent elections and its acceptance of a minor role in *government, seems to have prevented* it from filling an important post in its hierarchy.

No mention has been made after a two-day meeting of the central committee at party headquarters here, of a replacement for M Charles Fiterman, the new Minister of Transport, on the party's seven-man central committee secretariat.

M Fiterman was considered *number two on this body* behind M Georges Marchais, Secretary-General. Favourite for the post was M Guy Hermier, a deputy from Marseilles. But the Communist daily L'Humanité mentioned him only as a participant in preparatory work for the forthcoming party congress, set for late January or early February *next year.*

Another name put forward was M Andre Lajoinie, leader of the Communist group in Parliament, who has recently been seen as a potential challenger for M Marchais's post. This is mainly due to a remark he made before the Presidential election, warning M Marchais that it would "not be good" if he polled less than 20 per cent.

Four of the Communist top seven lost their parliamentary seats in this month's ballot.

M Marchais, in his report to the central committee meeting, was remarkably contrite on some points and recognised that the party had suffered a "serious setback." But he also called for the next congress to uphold the decisions of the *previous two in 1976 and 1979.*

The committee meeting was described as "rich and fruitful" but no details of the proceedings were revealed apart from M Marchais's report. M Marchais implicitly apologised for some recent policy stances which brought the party leadership under heavy attack, in particular its initiatives on preventing the *build-up of immigrant* communities and denouncing alleged drug-pedlars.

"We do not say that all the initiatives that have been taken . . . were perfect."

U.S. warns over Pakistan bomb

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE U.S. has urged Turkey to stop shipments to Pakistan of electrical equipment which could be used to help develop nuclear explosives for a possible test, according to a copy of a State Department cable sent to Ankara a week ago and obtained by the Associated Press.

Washington complained that *U.S.-made electrical inverters,* which transform currents for industrial purposes, were reaching Pakistan via a Turkish "covert purchasing network."

The cable, which the State Department would not officially confirm having sent, said Turkish companies were circumventing U.S. and European export controls, and that the Turkish Government should be informed that its aid programme in Congress could be jeopardised. As a NATO ally, Turkey has a common interest with the U.S. in stemming the spread of nuclear weapons.

Despite Pakistan's assurances that it will not build a bomb, the U.S. if clearly concerned it intends to set off an explosive nuclear test. "An explosion would probably eliminate Congressional support for a security assistance programme for Pakistan, thus seriously damaging our strategy for confronting Soviet aggression in south west Asia," the AP quoted the cable as saying.

The Reagan Administration recently agreed, pending Congressional approval, on a $3bn economic and military aid package, spread over five years with Pakistan.

Spadolini's candidates turn him down

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

SIG GIOVANNI SPADOLINI, Italy's first non-Christian Democrat Prime Minister since 1946, has failed in one of the main aims he set himself in composing his Cabinet. He wanted to attack Italy's severe economic problems with one or two highly respected and internationally known figures in the economic ministries.

He approached Dr Paolo Baffi, the 70-year-old former governor of the Bank of Italy, and Sig Bruno Vicentini, president of his own Republican Party and chairman of Olivetti. Both refused, however, though Dr Baffi is expected to become Sig Spadolini's economic adviser.

Failing them, it appears that he wanted to have Sig Filippo Maria Pandolfi, Industry Minister in the previous Government, and a former chairman of the International Monetary Fund interim committee, returned to the Treasury. When this turned out to be unacceptable to the Christian Democrat Party to which Sig Pandolfi belongs, he attempted to secure Sig Arnaldo Forlani, the outgoing Prime Minister, as Foreign Minister, despite the distinguished occupancy of that job by Sig Emilio Colombo.

But Sig Forlani, weary and perhaps more anxious to attend to the problems of the Christian Democrat Party, of which he is chairman, declined.

Thus two of the three main economic ministers are unchanged. Sig Nino Andreatta stays at the Treasury, which controls spending, and Sig Giorgio la Malfa at the Budget Ministry, which handles planning and longer-term issues.

The third economic ministry, the Ministry of Finance, which handles taxation, has for the past two years been under Sig Franco Reviglio, a conscientious *technocrat who has caused a* minor revolution through a determined and unpoplar campaign against tax evasion. Partly for this reason, the Socialist Party have put Sig Rino Fomica, a senior party man, into his place.

Because the Christian Democrats have yielded the Prime Ministership to the Republicans, they have to be given two more Cabinet posts than they had in the previous government. They keep the influential Ministry of the Interior. The Republicans now have only two posts, one fewer.

The number of Socialist Party Ministers stays at seven, though the party is crucial to the Government's survival. The Liberal Party was brought in *and a seat had to be provided,* which pushed the number of Cabinet posts up by one to 27.

The only significant new figure in the Cabinet is the Prime Minister himself, who is reassuringly rotund (greatly enjoying his food) and has a reputation for efficiency. His career as newspaper editor, university professor at Florence, and politician has been marked by almost constant success.

Spain holds army officer under terrorist law

By Robert Graham in Madrid

THE SPANISH Government yesterday appeared to have *initiated a new and delicate* confrontation with the military, as anti-terrorist laws were used for the first time in the detention of an army officer.

The officer, Major Saenz de Ynestrillas, was detained on Tuesday along with two other senior officers for alleged conspiracy against the State. A military examining magistrate ordered the release of the three men on Saturday. The Government then invoked the anti-terrorist laws to detain Maj Ynestrillas.

Maj Ynestrillas was found guilty along with Col Antonio Tejero—the man responsible for seizing Parliament on February 23—for alleged conspiracy in 1978. The detentions on Thursday, which included ten civilians followed a major crackdown amid new fears that the extreme Right was preparing a further campaign to destabilise Spanish democracy.

The action by the examining military magistrate provoked considerable surprise, since it was felt that the Ministry of the Interior would not have gone to the *trouble of carrying out the* detentions, using special police, if there was not a serious basis for its suspicion.

The Government refused last week to give any details about the round-up—the first since the abortive coup in February. All the available evidence suggests that those detained were involved in a campaign to penetrate and control Government communications. In particular, they were apparently out to penetrate a top security scramble telephone system.

The examining military magistrate ordered the release of the three officers on the basis of a military ruling that laid down that charges had to be laid formally within five days of detention. The application by the Ministry of the Interior of anti-terrorist laws introduced in December last year is apparently based on Maj Ynestrillas's alleged connection with activities of Fascist civilian groups planning campaigns of violence.

OAU chooses Gadaffi as next chairman

By Michael Holman in Nairobi

LIBYA will host next year's session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the organisation agreed at the end of its four-day summit in Nairobi. Col. Muammer Gadaffi will therefore take over from President Daniel *Arap Moi of Kenya, chairman* for the next 12 months.

The summit was attended by more than 30 heads of states and prime ministers.

The dispute in Western Sahara and Libya's military intervention in Chad, both of which potentially could have split the OAU, were defused through tactics which maintained its cohesion but may have little practical results.

The agreement by King Hassan, of Morocco, to hold a referendum in Western Sahara, where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting for independence since 1976, was couched in terms which left critical questions unanswered.

The final resolution on Chad made no direct mention of Libya's intervention but *called for an OAU peacekeeping* force to replace "foreign troops" who, in turn, would be gradually phased out. Few delegates were optimistic about the pace at which such a costly exercise could be implemented.

Economic problems of a continent increasingly beset by food shortages and balance of payments difficulties received scant attention.

Gatt plans fresh talks on world's trading system

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT, WORLD TRADE EDITOR

MINISTERS FROM 86 nations are expected to meet next year for talks about the world trading system, which could lead to negotiations further to reduce trade barriers.

The consultative group of 18 nations, which acts as a steering committee for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), agreed it would be "useful to consider at the political level the overall condition of the trading system."

It would be appropriate for nations which had signed the Gatt — nearly 90 of them — to convene a ministerial meeting next year, the group said. Representing the main trading nations and regional groupings, the group's recommendation carries great weight.

The purpose of the meeting is not to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations to succeed the Tokyo Round which ended in 1979, but it may be the starting point for a new round.

"We are entering a step-by-step operation that will lead to something," said Mr Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director general. But, he added, "adequate preparation for such a meeting will be essential."

Such a meeting will give an opportunity for the UK Government to air its concern about finding safeguards for domestic industries hurt by highly competitive but legal sales concentrated in a few sectors. The UK would like safeguards without the need to pay compensation to affected exporters for closing the market.

This problem, particularly associated with Japan, and affecting the U.S. and EEC, seems certain to be raised in the general context of discussions about protectionism.

It is clearly industrialised world pressure for more protection in the face of recession which has been a major factor behind the plans to call a conference. However, the conference would be open to the discussion of any question, the Gatt secretariat said.

Each round of tariff cutting negotiated since 1948 has been followed by meetings designed to launch another round. Next *year's conference may serve the* same purpose.

It has been agreed informally by many countries that in the next round the outstanding issues are likely to be reducing barriers to agricultural trade and services, lowering quantative restrictions on sales from developing countries, and a revised system of safeguards.

Textile producers in MFA stand

BY KEVIN RAFFERTY IN HONG KONG

THE WORLD'S largest developing country producers of textiles and clothing have hammered out a common stand for the talks on renewing the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA). Delegates from the 21 countries attending the week-long talks in Hong Kong said the producers were determined not to be picked off one by one by the rich industrialised countries as before.

Mr Felipe Jaramillo of Colombia, the chairman, said the developing countries would demand progress on returning to freer trade.

He said at the end of the meeting: The participants are adamant that the perpetuation of the discriminatory and restrictive regime under the 1977 MFA and the protocol of extension is unacceptable to them. World trade in textiles and clothing must be liberalised in real terms, by a gradual return to free trade in conformity with the normal Gatt rules and practices."

The developing country producers would keep a careful eye on bilateral discussions during renegotiation of the MFA to check that they will not prejudice the multilateral talks. The Hong Kong meeting "has resulted in solid co-operation among us never before seen in the last 20 years," Mr Jaramillo said.

Producers represented at the meeting included Hong Kong, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. China was present as an observer. Mr Shi Yousan, adviser to China National Textiles Import and Export Corporation, said China was "not eager" to join the MFA as it "only serves the interests of the developed countries."

What upsets the developing countries is that they account for only about a quarter of the world's textile and clothing trade. They are being squeezed by MFA restrictions and face calls from the industrialised world for still tighter squeezes, but U.S. and some European textile industries are doing well.

● China has been granted observer status by Gatt at the MFA negotiations, our World Trade Editor writes. A new round of talks starts in mid-July.

The move indicates China's continuing interest in Gatt membership, although it has not taken formal steps either to reclaim its seat as a *founder* member, abandoned after the 1949 revolution, or to sign afresh as a developing country.

China has taken soundings about conditions for membership among the major trading powers but so far has not felt inclined to enter the lengthy negotiations which would accompany formal application.

Record Sino grain order expected

BY TONY WALKER IN PEKING

CHINA is expected to buy a record 8m tonnes of U.S. grain this year, pushing it into third place among customers for U.S. agricultural products.

Mr Richard Lyng, a deputy secretary of the U.S. Agriculture Department, said at the weekend at the end of a visit to Peking that U.S. agricultural sales to China would jump this year to about $2.5bn (£1.25bn).

Chinese purchases of American farm products were valued at $2.2bn in 1980. Biggest sellers were grain cotton and soyabeans.

American officials travelling with Mr Lyng expect China to continue buying about 15m tonnes of grain annually in line with its policy of improving food supplies to deprived areas.

One official said total grain imports of 15m tonnes a year were about all China could manage because of lack of storage, congestion at ports and railways and a shortage of foreign exchange.

China's agriculture planning commission estimated recently that grain production in China this year would be about 330m tonnes. Marginally below 1979's record 332m tonnes. Last year's production was about 315m tonnes.

Wide sections of the north and north-east have been suffering a crippling drought, however, and the commission forecast may be optimistic.

U.S. figures show a remarkable growth in Sino-U.S. commodity trade since 1978. In 1979 China ranked 11th among customers for American agricultural products, taking less than $1bn worth.

According to the U.S. Agriculture Department, U.S. shipments of wheat to China last year increased almost fivefold in value and nearly four-fold in volume.

U.S. cotton exports to China nearly doubled last year to $701m.

Apart from purchases of about 6m tonnes of grain from the U.S. in 1980, China negotiated agreements for supplies with Canada, Argentina and France. Later this year, it is expected to renew a long-term agreement with Australia for 7-8m tonnes over three years.

U.S. to end shoe import curbs

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT REAGAN is expected to lift the four-year restrictions on shoe imports from South Korea and Taiwan to refurbish his free trading image after the recent U.S.-Japanese deal on cars. The decision may be made today.

Advice to scrap the orderly marketing agreements, or voluntary quotas, negotiated in 1977 under President Carter, has been virtually unanimous from inside the Administration.

It is supported, for instance, by both the Trade Representative's Office headed by Mr William Brock and the White House Council of Economic Advisers, which had split over how to handle imports of Japanese cars.

The expected move will not please the domestic shoe industry or their political representatives, particularly from northeast states, on Capitol Hill.

But the U.S. *International* Trade Commission, a quasi-independent panel which gives initial rulings on domestic complaints about import competition, had recommended ending the limits on South Korea, while keeping them on Taiwan for another two years.

Top White House aides believe it is important for President Reagan to send a signal, especially before the Western Economic Summit in Ottawa next month, that the voluntary restraint deal with Japan on car imports was an aberration, and that the Administration is back on a free trading course. They see the shoe issue as a chance *to do just this.*

Shoe shipments from South Korea and Taiwan account for nearly one-half of all U.S. footwear imports. Their products are mainly in the cheap range of shoes with plastic and rubber components.

Administration officials argue that the U.S. shoe industry has recovered from its 1977 doldrums by new investment and mergers.

How Mexico's oil exporting ambitions turned sour

BY WILLIAM CHISLETT IN MEXICO CITY

THE OIL GLUT and customer resistance is likely to force Mexico, the world's fourth-*largest oil producer, to cut its* planned oil exports of 1.5m barrels a day.

An intense debate is taking place inside the government over what to do now that oil revenue is dropping and customers are suspending or reducing the amounts they buy.

Mexico cut its price by $4.00 a barrel in June to $30.60. This decision, roundly condemned by the government and Mexico's inordinately nationalistic press, caused the resignation of Sr Jorge Diaz Serrano, the head of the state oil concern Pemex.

The government's ambition is to regain some of the $1.2bn lost income by defying market forces and increasing the price in July.

This would enable it to *placate the nationalistic lobbies* which have long viewed Mexico's oil more as a product of national honour than a commodity subject to market forces — *Mexico was the first country* in the world, in 1938, to nationalise its oil.

But the most likely outcome is that Pemex will have no option but to turn down the valves and cut back on exports, imposing a token price increase, if it raises the price at all.

Mexico has tripled its oil production in the remarkably short space of four and a half years. Its proven hydrocarbon reserves have risen elevenfold, to 67.8bn barrels, the fifth largest in the world. It is due to hit its 2.75m b/d production target in July.

It makes no sense for Mexico to increase production further, now that there is a glut and its customers are backing off.

Mexico has been cashing in *successfully on its oil for the* past two years. Mexico offers long-term stable contracts, and claims loudly that it does not speculate on the spot market.

But the oil glut has created acute short-term problems. The Mexican Government is having great difficulty adjusting to the fact that it is now a buyers' market.

Mexico's U.S. clients have cut back some 200,000 b/d. Ashland dropped its 90,000 b/d during the first quarter, and more recently Phillips and other companies have cut back. On top of this France's Compagnie Francaise des Petroles has reportedly told Pemex that it wants to reduce its supply of 100,000 b/d, and Sweden is understood to be considering reducing its 30,000 b/d.

Mexico has now offered to step up Japan's supplies from 100,000 b/d to 300,000 b/d, after months of telling Japan it could not offer a drop more.

Japan has been eager to receive more Mexican oil and reduce its dependence on the Middle East, but has nowhere yet to store the Mexican oil. It has over-supply problems in the short term.

Japan is also wary of whether any strings are attached and is reluctant to take any more of the poor-quality "Maya" heavy oil.

Canada, too, has been offered extra supplies over and above its present 50,000 b/d. Canada has been courting Mexico hard, but it is not showing much enthusiasm at the moment.

The "Maya" problem is a growing one, and is exacerbating Mexico's current predicament.

Sr Diaz Serrano, soon before he resigned, said: "The cards have changed, the situation has changed. We must learn to live with this other side of the market in order to return . . . (the change in the market) will affect us and we must face that fact."

UK TRADE MISSION

MR CECIL PARKINSON, the Minister for Trade, right, yesterday arrived in Mexico at the head of a business mission designed to boost the 2.5 per cent share of the Mexican imports market held by the UK, our World Trade Staff writes.

The composition of the mission suggests an effort is in the offing to win further project contracts in the *Mexican energy and steel* industries.

Senior executives from Davy Corporation, BSC (Overseas Services), Vickers Design and Projects Division, NEI International, GEC Power Engineering, Selection Trust and the UK Atomic Energy Authority are accompanying Mr Parkinson.

Since 1977, UK exports to Mexico have increased steadily to reach £188.1m last year. The main products were machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, whisky and milk powder. Mexico's sales to the UK, on the other hand, came to £116.6m, nearly half of which was silver.

After leaving Mexico, Mr Parkinson will go to Peru and *Colombia, where he will be* joined by another group of businessmen. UK trade with both these countries is running at a much lower level than that with Mexico, but there seems to be reasonable prospects of British companies winning contracts in Peru related to mining development.

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SHIPPING REPORT

Rates slip even further

BY OUR SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

BOTH THE tanker and dry cargo markets were dull last week, with too much oil still facing too little demand and coal and grain activity fairly slack.

Tanker rates slipped even further to about Worldscale 24 for an ultra large crude carrier (ULCC) of more than 345,000 dwt from the Arabian Gulf to the West, and Worldscale 26½ for a very large crude carrier (VLCC) of 225,000 dwt.

E. A. Gibson *said in its* weekly report that charterers were becoming more selective in the vessels they took and were facing higher than expected costs *for fitting safety* and anti-pollution gear in line with new international regulations.

Denholm Coates described the dry cargo market as rather like this year's British summer — dull and overcast with the rare brighter interval.

There was slightly more activity on the U.S. Gulf/European grain run, but rates were barely steady at about $12.50-$13.50 a ton.

World Economic Indicators

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES
(U.S.$m)

	Apr. 1981	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Apr. 1980
UK	18,038	18,487	18,614	20,175
U.S.	11,251	11,895	11,783	5,558
Belgium	5,508	4,789	6,153	4,120
W. Germany	45,575	45,979	42,758	42,911
Japan	23,742	23,341	21,994	14,846
Netherlands	8,872	9,656	9,587	9,014
France	27,732	27,759	27,424	23,606
	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1981	Mar. 1980
Italy	16,384	19,043	20,480	17,982

Source: IMF

Cabinet backs youth training programme

By Richard Evans, Lobby Editor

BROAD CABINET approval has been given to plans by Mr Prior, Employment Secretary, to reduce unemployment, particularly among school-leavers. These plans will ensure that everyone will receive some form of occupational training within months of leaving school.

As an interim measure, Mr Prior will announce shortly that more money is to be made available to the Manpower Services Commission for the youth opportunities scheme, which already provides 450,000 places for school-leavers.

This will help to keep the promise by Mr Prior and Mrs Thatcher after the special economic Cabinet 12 days ago that anyone leaving school this year who has not got a job by Christmas will be found a youth opportunities place and anyone out of work for more than three months will be found a training place within the following three months.

In the longer term, Mr Prior intends to produce a plan in the autumn which will create a training system similar to the one in West Germany.

This offers financial inducements to companies creating training opportunities for young people and withdraws unemployment and other welfare benefits when a suitable training vacancy is declined.

The cost of the scheme could be substantial. It is certain to attract criticism from the Conservative right wing if the details are made known before the party conference in October.

Support in principle from Mrs Thatcher shows the extent to which the combating of unemployment — particularly among the young — has gained in priority within the Cabinet.

Tory attack on indexed pensions

SENIOR Conservative MPs are to put increased pressure on the Government to end the inflation proofing of public service pensions. Sir William Clark, chairman of the Tory backbench Finance Committee, said yesterday that unless the Government took action before the autumn the increased cost to the taxpayer would be "phenomenal."

Mrs Thatcher is known to favour cutting the link between civil service and other public service pensions. The most likely proposal is that civil servants and others should pay more from earnings for the privilege of index-linking.

Carpet plant hope for Wales

THE BELGIAN Beaulieu group, one of the world's largest floor-covering manufacturers, is believed to be planning to establish a rug-weaving plant in South Wales.

The mill would provide 100 jobs on shift working to produce rugs and broadloom carpet based on new technology developed by Beaulieu. It covers the simulation of expensive oriental rugs in polypropylene-bulked continuous filament yarn for the budget-price market.

BR export plan starts rolling

BRITISH RAIL'S Transmark consultancy has identified 70 projects for rail electrification around the world which could produce business worth up to £1.7bn for British or foreign companies bidding for the work.

Britain has only about four per cent of the total world market for rail equipment, and Transmark is likely to be interested in bidding for only 40 of the rail electrification projects now being considered by overseas countries.

Sock-it-to-'em with £750,000

COURTAULDS is to spend a total of £750,000 over the next two or three years on promoting its Wolsey range of products—the largest sum ever committed to the relaunch of a men's wear brand in Britain, the group claims. The campaign begins in the autumn.

Wolsey, operating from factories in the East Midlands, claims to have about 5 per cent of the men's hosiery market and rather less of the knitwear and underwear market. It is hoped the promotion will more than double this.

Carrington for 'Neddy' meeting

Lord Carrington is to attend the National Economic Development Council on Wednesday to discuss overseas economic issues.

Foreign affairs questions rarely dominate the council's discussions and the attendance of the Foreign Secretary is unusual. The talks are part of the build-up for next month's Ottawa summit and the North-South dialogue in Mexico later in the year.

Inflation-conscious Sun Alliance cuts insurance premiums for some drivers

BY ERIC SHORT

CERTAIN MOTORISTS insured with the Sun Alliance group could find themselves paying less for their motor insurance at the next renewal because of the company's latest comprehensive review of its British motor premium rates.

The company insures around 200,000 private motorists in Britain. It has revised its rating structure for the three main factors which determine premiums—age of driver, age and type of car, and area in which the driver lives. The new scale comes into force on Wednesday, July 1.

Sun Alliance has made selective increases for ages, ranging from virtually zero increases for drivers in the 30-34 age group to 17 per cent for the driver under 25. Drivers aged 50 or over pay 5 per cent more.

Rates on a number of popular cars — including the Mini Metro — have been lowered. A few areas have lower rates, for others it has been increased.

The net result is an average rise of 7½ per cent in motor premium rates. Some motorists will pay less and down-rating of area and car can more than offset the rise for age.

For example, a woman aged 32 living in Leeds, driving a Mini-Metro 1.3 is eligible for full NCD with a £50 excess, will find her premium down from £96.60 to £75.60.

In other cases, the increase in premiums is modest compared with current inflation rates. A husband and wife both aged 55 driving a four-year-old Marina 1.3 with full NCD and a £50 excess will find their premium rising by only 5.9 per cent from £59.10 to £62.60.

Sun Alliance last revised its motor premium rates on April 1, 1980. It has therefore kept its rates steady for 15 months

Guardian Royal Exchange, the second largest motor insurer in Britain with 1.1m UK motorists in its portfolio, is also increasing its motor premium rates on Wednesday by an average of 10 per cent. The company tends to make rate increases frequently. There were two in 1980—of 12 per cent on May 1, followed by 6 per cent on December 1.

The company has also revised the increases in the light of its recent experience, the better class of driver who lives in a good area having a lower increase.

Motor premium increases this year have tended to be below the rate of inflation. Although the number of claims has fallen below recent levels thanks to the mild winter, the cost of labour and spare parts is still running ahead of price inflation. Keen competition is keeping premiums down.

Reactor refuelling studies halted

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN's chief nuclear inspector, in a final decision before his retirement last night, has upset Energy Department ministers by abandoning inspections intended to raise the performance of four advanced gas-cooled reactors.

Mr Ron Gausden, retiring chief of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, has ordered a halt to safety studies of a £5m redesign of the on-load refuelling system for the AGRs.

Mr Gausden—who reported to the Health and Safety Executive (Department of Employment) and not to the Department of Energy — has switched his inspectors to the problems of commissioning three new AGRs.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board has complained that it could save up to £4m a year by operating the new on-load refuelling system at its two AGRs at Hunterston.

The Central Electricity Generating Board could expect similar savings for its Hinkley AGR station. But the CEGB could reap much greater benefits by having as many as three new AGRs—at Hartlepool, Heysham and Dungeness—on-load this winter.

The new AGRs are not expected to have difficulties with on-load refuelling, says Mr Gausden.

Mr Gausden's underlying difficulties have lain with a serious and chronic shortage of nuclear inspectors.

What has annoyed ministers about his decision to switch resources is that they believed the problem, much publicised last year, has disappeared.

Mr Gausden believes, however, that low pay and the threat that the headquarters of the government's nuclear inspectors will move to Bootle in 1985 are still major barriers to recruitment.

A civil service investigation has shown no apparent differences in pay for nuclear inspectors in the NII, the CEGB, British Nuclear Fuels and the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Nevertheless, the nuclear companies are successfully recruiting their own inspectors and the NII is not.

Today the problem passes to a new chief nuclear inspector, Mr Ron Anthony, 57, an under-secretary from the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Anthony, a nuclear inspector for 15 years from the inception of the agency in 1960, has had other responsibilities such as safety in the construction industry for the last five years.

Mr Anthony, together with Mr Paul Woods, as the senior inspector responsible for the pressurised water reactor studies, are expected to represent the NII's case for approving the Sizewell B PWR design at the public inquiry next year.

Problems of taxing sickness benefits

Financial Times Reporter

THE PRESENT Government has long been committed to the principle of taxing short-term Social Security payments as part of a person's income. But it is having considerable problems trying to devise a system of taxing sickness benefits that will be acceptable to all sections of the community.

A year ago in April 1980, the Government published a Green Paper setting out its proposals. These outlined plans for making employers accept the responsibility of paying sickness benefit during the early weeks of illness.

These proposals were bitterly as Employers' Statutory Sick Pay (ESSP) and would automatically bring sickness payments within the scope of the PAYE tax system while at the same time saving the jobs of about 5,000 civil servants.

These proposals were bitterly opposed by both trade unions and the employers, the latter objecting on two grounds.

First, the cost would be much higher than under the present system and, secondly, industries with high sickness rates would be unduly penalised.

The Government's original ESSP proposals envisaged employers paying sickness benefits at least at statutory minimum level during the first eight weeks of sickness.

Employers would be compensated in the original plan by a flat rate deduction in the NI contributions of 0.5 per cent. Under a revised version the deduction was increased to 0.6 per cent and small employers would receive an additional compensation.

INSURANCE

By Eric Short

The Government has now offered two new proposals for consideration to meet the objections voiced by the Confederation of British Industry and other employer organisations.

Under the proposal classified as Mark III—the previous two proposals being classified as Mark I and II—employers would be able to offset one half of the statutory sick payments made against their monthly NI bill, plus having an overall deduction of around one third of 1 per cent in their NI rate. There would be no extra concessions for small businesses.

This approach will ensure that companies with a higher than average sickness rate would receive compensation that reflected this experience.

The other proposal, classified as Mark IV, aims to avoid the administrative burden and opportunity for error and abuse. With this scheme, all employers would have a 0.5 per cent reduction in their NI contribution rates, while small firms and employers in industry with high sickness rates would have a further reduction of 0.4 per cent.

The Government prefers the Mark IV proposals which would lead to the saving of around 5,300 Civil Service jobs.

Copies of the Government proposals, Compensating Employers for Statutory Sick Pay — A Consultative Document, can be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security (Information Division), Block 4, Canons Park, Government Buildings, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore HA7 1AYU at a price of 60p.

P & O opposes plan for Sealink sale

BY ANDREW FISHER, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

PENINSULAR & Oriental Steam Navigation, Britain's biggest shipping company, strongly opposes the plan by European Ferries to buy Sealink UK, the Cross-Channel ferry operation owned by British Rail.

The intended offer by European Ferries, which has said it is prepared to pay up to £50m for Sealink UK, is under study by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, due to report in a few months.

The view of P & O, which is also in the Channel ferry business, is that Sealink should be "privatised" as the Government wishes, but in a piecemeal way, avoiding a new "monopoly"

Offers, it says, should be invited from UK shipping companies not significantly involved in Sealink's present routes to buy the assets and goodwill of its various services.

According to Dr Rodney Leach, P & O director in charge of ferries, cruises and other transport activities, purchase of Sealink by European Ferries would lead to a powerful ferry operation on most routes which would be a classic monopoly.

If Sealink, which lost £3.8m last year, were to be sold off piecemeal, P & O would be interested in one or two of the Channel passenger and Irish Sea freight services.

Last week the Monopolies Commission gave the go-ahead for a merger between the Swedish-owned Hoverlloyd, which lost nearly £700,000 in 1980, and British Rail's Seaspeed, which lost nearly £3m.

These two cross-Channel hovercraft services will now merge into Hoverspeed, a move which Dr Leach also criticised on Friday. He said there was no effective guarantee that further subsidies from the taxpayer would not be needed if the merger went ahead.

Sealink, which sails conventional vessels, is much larger than Seaspeed and has nearly 50 ferries. It is involved in consortia with French Railways and Belgian and Dutch transport interests.

Last year Sealink carried about 35 per cent of the accompanied vehicle traffic between the UK and France and Belgium. European Ferries had 41 per cent. P & O has a much smaller share.

Dr Leach said that the agreements between Sealink UK and its Continental partners should be looked at to see how they could best be ended, especially those which had continually lost money.

The only partnership service which appeared remotely commercial was that with the Dutch-owned Zeeland Shipping Company, he said.

NEB boosts robot use

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE National Enterprise Board is to decide during the next couple of months whether to set up a company to increase the use of robots in British industry.

Such a company might operate on a turnkey system, obtaining licences from abroad and designing uses and applications which would stimulate the use of robots in manufacturing industry.

This is one of a number of possible investments in the area of robotic systems now being considered by the NEB and the National Research Development Corporation.

The study of robots is the first major project to be considered jointly by the two organisations since it was announced at the beginning of the year that they are being gradually brought together in a unified organisation, probably to be called the British Technology Group.

No decisions have yet been taken on the investments although both organisations already have interests in robotics. The Government is anxious to see British manufacturing industry speed up the introduction of electronic automated systems.

The NEB and NRDC began the study some months ago. Some private-sector engineering companies argue that they are responding enough already to the demand for robots.

However, the Government feels that potential users need to be encouraged to move faster, as has happened during the past three years since the Department of Industry launched schemes to encourage the development of general micro-electronic developments.

Council house sales

BY WILLIAM COCHRANE

ABOUT 2,200 council houses were sold to tenants in the first six months of the Government's new right-to-buy scheme, Mr John Stanley, Housing Minister, said at the weekend.

This figure compares with a total of 250,000 applications submitted by council tenants in the same period to March 31 last.

Mr Stanley, in a speech to the Institute of Housing at Brighton, said that the proportion of private financing of sales of council houses had risen in each of the past four quarters.

"At the end of March our best estimate," he said, "is that of some 2,200 right to buy sales completed at that point, only approximately 1,000, less than half, had been completed with a council mortgage."

Capital receipts, including sales of offices, shops and industrial buildings as well as council houses, enable an authority's Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) allocation from the government to be increased in relation to the capital sums it receives.

Mr Stanley disclosed that, for example:

- ● Nottingham is using £5m of receipts to increase its HIP spending by nearly 30 per cent;
- ● Portsmouth is using more than £2¼m to increase spending by 50 per cent; and
- ● Fenland's capital receipts are enabling it to increase its HIP expenditure by more than 50 per cent.

Mr Stanley warned local councils: "I must make it clear that the government will be sticking to the public expenditure course it has set, and though we shall try to protect capital expenditure as far as it is possible to do so, it is inescapable that the public money available for capital spending is going to remain very tight."

Underwriting agents may form professional body

BY JOHN MOORE

A GROUP of underwriting agents in London is considering forming its own professional association after a period of criticism by a number of large insurance companies.

The underwriting agency companies operating outside the Lloyd's market offer underwriting and management services to insurers. But their standards of practice have often been condemned by leading insurance groups.

Earlier this year, Mr. Julius Neave, managing director of Mercantile and General Reinsurance Company, warned that "there is clearly too much scope for the unscrupulous to evade the regulations and the opportunity has been grasped all too often."

Mr. Neave said that while there are many agency companies who are beyond criticism both as to the profitable outcome of their operations and record of services to their clients, some agency companies continue to give cause "for misgiving and concern."

The new association, which is understood will be modelled along the lines of the Reinsurance Offices Association, is seen as an attempt in insurance circles to develop a high standard of professionalism among underwriting agents.

At the same time, it is seen as an attempt to reflect the positive side of underwriting agency work and the contribution the activity makes to international insurance business.

Daimler-Benz will open large car import centre

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

DAIMLER-BENZ signalled its intention yesterday to capture a larger share of the UK car market by opening an import centre at Harwich capable of handling at least 15,000 cars a year, almost 70 per cent up on the number sold last year.

Registrations of Mercedes cars have nearly doubled, from 4,500, since the company set up its UK subsidiary in 1974.

In 1980, 8,876 new Mercedes cars were registered in the UK. The target for this year is 10,000.

Daimler-Benz, despite the fall in sales, particularly for large cars, still cannot meet world demand. Nearly every Mercedes is built to order and has a customer's name against it from an early stage.

In Britain the waiting list covers eight to 18 months, depending on the model.

This year delays are exacerbated by the Civil Service dispute, which slows imports because the Customs and Excise paperwork takes more time than usual.

The £1.5m vehicle preparation centre opened yesterday is part of a £30m investment programme which the UK company aims to complete by the mid-1980s.

The 800-acre site, reclaimed from the sea, leaves room for much expansion.

Engineering labour costs defeat profitability

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

THE MAJOR barriers to improving the productivity of the engineering industry are inside individual companies rather than outside, says a report published today by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Following a study of performance and productivity in 21 machine-tool companies, published in 1979, the federation has now completed a similar pilot project in the pumps and fluid-power equipment sectors.

Successful companies are shown to have a consistent and forward-looking management approach, dynamic marketing strategy, concern for research and development and production planning, and a commitment to good industrial relations

Value added per pound of capital employed and per employee was higher in the pump sector, but as it paid more for its labour, this was not translated into higher profitability.

The fluid-power sector was much more capital-intensive but was not able to use its capital to raise labour productivity, although it did benefit from using less-skilled, cheaper labour.

The report concludes that even in the relatively difficult trading conditions of the late 1970s it was possible to operate very successfully in the British engineering industry.

Which? Metro judgment upsets BL and BSM

BY MARTIN DICKSON

THE LEADING BUYER of BL's Austin Metro jumped to the defence of the car yesterday after criticism by Motoring Which? the Consumers' Association magazine.

Mr David Acheson, managing director of the British School of Motoring, which has a fleet of 1,100 Metros, said: "The Metro is the best new car we have ever introduced to our fleet. The reliability has proved to be very good and we have experienced very few problems."

Motoring Which? says that a Metro bought anonymously from an East London dealer had 35 faults on delivery and needed a new gearbox after only 9,300 miles.

BL yesterday blamed "very brutal" testing by the magazine for the damaged gearbox, which had been examined at the new Metro plant at Longbridge.

The gearbox problem was the "first and only one ever recorded." Overall, service records for the first 120,000 Metros showed that complaints were the lowest for any BL model.

"We know the Consumers' Association testers are hypercritical, and some of ther testing methods are most rigorous, if not brutal, to a car."

The Consumers' Association itself came to the defence of the Metro, saying that its report had actually concluded that the car was "quite a good one."

A statement from the association said that the Metro was a "worthy contender in the small hatchback stakes, able to stand up to the competition in many ways and beat it in some, notably on running costs.

Clearing banks to automate giro system

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE CLEARING BANKS plan to automate their inefficient bank giro credit system to contain costs and accommodate the rapid growth in the number of transactions.

In the last decade the number of credit vouchers handled by the banks has doubled to 436m items a year, and continues to grow by about 7 per cent annually, which puts strain on the money transmission services.

Volume of credit vouchers handled by the banks is roughly equal to that of cheques handled when the cheque-clearing system was automated 20 years ago.

About 2bn cheques a year pass through the system. It is intended to extend electronic processing techniques used in handling cheques to bank giro forms and other credit vouchers.

The new system, to be phased in over the next three years, requires certain modifications to paper vouchers. Standardisation, within certain tolerances, is necessary in three respects if the paper is to be moved and "read" at high speed by machines.

First the physical properties of the paper must permit high-speed handling. Second, design and format of the vouchers needs to meet certain requirements. Third, the voucher will contain a standard code line which can be read by machine either magnetically or optically.

The banks will modify their bank giro credit forms, but companies which print their own paper credit vouchers, such as salary credits or dividend payments, need to ensure that their vouchers meet the technical specifications for paper quality, format and codeline.

Details of these specifications are available from the Inter-Bank Standards Unit, City Road, London. Vouchers issued by customers after the end of 1983 must include a full codeline to the required print quality.

According to the timetable the switch to the new CBS2 paper is to be before 1982.

The banks say that some developments taking place in electronic funds transfer services provided by the Bankers' Automated Clearing Services may have an important bearing on the present credit clearing system.

As well as tape input, the clearing services already have a facility for receipt of input by computer cassette, and within the next year will introduce facilities for receipt of input via floppy discs and the public telephone network.

Leader comment, Page 14

British Telecom launches battle to retain its monopoly

Jason Crisp analyses the threat of more expensive phones

A MAJOR battle over the proposed liberalisation of the telecommunications monopoly will come to a head at a private seminar by the Department of Industry on Friday.

Before the seminar, British Telecom is expected to launch a public attack on many of the proposals. It will claim that private telephone users will have to pay £450m a year more (about £30 a home) and that it will need a further £135m revenue from public pay phones.

It fears that it might not be able to provide all its services—especially new ones—to rural areas, which would damage the ability of those areas to attract industry and employment.

It will also warn of possible damage to British telecommunications manufacturers. Faced with open competition it would buy the cheapest equipment, whether it was British or not.

It has told the Department of Industry that free competition in the U.S. has reduced the level of innovation there compared to that in Europe.

The controversy centres on proposals by Professor Michael Beesley of the London Business School in a report commissioned by Sir Keith Joseph, Industry Secretary and published earlier this year.

Prof. Beesley recommended liberalisation of the telecommunications monopoly. He said companies should be free to lease private circuits from British Telecom and then resell them whether or not they added any additional service.

British Telecom opposes the plans because its profits come from the international and trunk networks which cross-subsidise the loss-making local and residental calls. Competition would skim off their profits.

Also, the corporation wants to relate its charges more to cost. Local calls would cost about 40 per cent more and trunk calls 30 per cent less over a period of five years.

The Department of Industry believes that British Telecom is greatly exaggerating the effects of Prof. Beesley's plans. It has already rejected his proposal to allow competition of international circuits, where British Telecom is most profitable.

It is likely that the only competing network to be licensed in the foreseeable future is the joint consortium of Cable and Wireless, BP and Barclays Merchant Bank.

The department does not expect a great rush of companies for licences to offer the so-called "value-added network services" (VANS) on British Telecom's own lines.

Because of Government (particularly Treasury) interest in British Telecom's property, there is likely to be some limitation to the extent of competition it will have to face.

Discussions are going on about British Telecom's financing needs for 1984/85, when the effect of competition will begin to be felt. The department feels that by then the corporation will have lost less than 1 per cent of its revenue.

It is hoped that liberalising Britain's telecommunications will put British companies in a strong position to exploit the new information technologies. The traditionally deeply-conservative European telecommunications authorities are becoming increasingly worried by moves in Britain.

● The cost of telephone calls could rise by as much as a quarter if proposals for liberalising the telecommunications network were adopted, according to the Post Office Engineering Union, the largest union in British Telecom.

In a submission to Sir Keith Joseph, it says, the Beesley proposals would benefit a small number of large businesses at the expense of householders and rural customers.

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Peter Riddell looks at economic prospects for Britain and the Continent

'Mistake' to increase Europe rates of interest

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES would be mistaken to try to offset the temporary depreciations of their currencies against the dollar by raising interest rates, two of the London Business School's economists argue in a viewpoint in the latest Economic Outlook.

Dr Alan Budd, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting, and Mr Geoffrey Dicks examine the relationship between monetary targets and exchange rates.

They argue that the current problem over the dollar represents a short-term response to an attempt by the U.S. to reduce its rate of inflation.

On the Business School's calculations, the adopted monetary targets suggest that, in the longer term, the trend of the dollar will be downwards.

Consequently, it is a mistake for countries to try to offset temporary movements since the adjustment will come about automatically in due course.

The authors maintain that national policies are not currently consistent with stable exchange rates or with a move towards them.

West Germany and Japan, in particular, are setting monetary targets which are likely to lead to trend appreciations of their currencies; and Italy is setting targets which are likely to lead to a trend depreciation.

The authors continue: "There is nothing wrong with that. If countries wish to pursue their own policies towards inflation, the exchange rate system will adjust accordingly."

The implications are that countries should become accustomed to changes in exchange rates and that, as far as possible, sudden changes in monetary policy should be avoided.

"Even if countries adopt steady monetary rules there will still be fluctuations in exchange rates around their trend movements and there may, as in the UK, be a major shift in the trend.

"Although such fluctuations are difficult to cope with, particularly for the producers of internationally traded goods and services, experience tends to show that major divergences are usually corrected within a year or so."

In a further viewpoint, Dr Budd and Mr Dicks look at the effect of the rise in sterling on output and inflation by comparing the performance of the British economy with that of Ireland.

"As a member of the European Monetary System, Ireland shared the general depreciation of the European currencies against sterling. We suggest that the result has been a higher rate of inflation in Ireland than in Britain.

"Also, although the Irish manufacturing sector avoided the UK's loss of competitiveness, the fall in manufacturing output in Ireland during 1980 was—when allowance is made for a higher underlying rate of growth in Ireland—comparable to that in the UK."

A briefing paper by Mr David Smith discusses the distinctions between different types of public expenditure in Britain.

Output likely to revive strongly in 1982

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL FORECASTS
(early March projections in brackets)
Percentage annual change

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Consumer spending	+0.6	+0.8 (+0.2)	+1.3 (+1.9)	+2.2 (+1.5)	+1.8 (+2.2)
Exports	+0.4	−4.6 (−2.9)	+2.6 (+2.7)	+4.3 (+2.5)	+3.7 (+2.1)
Imports	−3.5	−4.1 (−3.0)	+6.6 (+6.7)	+5.5 (+4.6)	+3.4 (+3.6)
Gross Domestic Product	−3.0	−1.7 (−1.2)	+2.8 (+2.6)	+2.0 (+1.1)	+1.4 (+1.4)
Consumer prices	15.6	10.5 (10.6)	8.9 (9.2)	8.1 (9.7)	8.8 (8.8)
Money supply (sterling M3)	15.8	13.1 (10.7)	9.5 (8.0)	8.4 (7.4)	8.1 (6.4)
Current account £bn.	2.7	3.8 (3.0)	1.7 (0.6)	1.7 (0.1)	1.7 (−0.8)
Adult unemployment (m UK)	1.6	2.5 (2.5)	2.7 (2.7)	2.7 (2.5)	2.7 (2.5)
Public sector borrowing, financial years, £bn.	13.3	10.6 (12.1)	7.3 (7.1)	6.1 (4.3)	6.0 (3.9)

Source: London Business School Economic Outlook.

TOTAL OUTPUT in the UK should recover, though only slowly, from now on, the London Business School's Centre for Economic Forecasting says in its latest Economic Outlook published this morning.

Economic activity should expand quite strongly in 1982 and 1983 though unemployment is likely to remain high—around a plateau of 2.7m for adults during the upturn and possibly rising slightly in 1984.

The decline in the inflation rate is expected to come to a temporary halt until next spring, partly as a result of the fall in the exchange rate. The slowdown should then resume because of an expected improvement in productivity and a moderate increase in wages. The annual rate of consumer price inflation should be between 8 and 9 per cent in the 1982 to 1984 period.

The Business School points out that "some of the more optimistic aspects of the forecast—notably the deceleration of inflation, the recovery of profits and the pick-up in private investment in 1982—depend crucially on the assumed improvement in productivity which follows from the shake-out of labour last year."

There is expected to be a rapid turnround in manufacturing productivity from a decline of 7.4 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter of last year to a rise of 6.6 per cent by the end of 1981 followed by a 1.9 per cent increase during 1982, and steady growth thereafter.

Earnings rises are expected to continue to decelerate with an average increase of 11¾ per cent this year and of 9 per cent in 1982. Coupled with the rise in productivity this should contribute to a decline in the growth of unit labour costs from some 23 per cent at the end of 1980 to 5 per cent at the end of this year.

This is the main reason for an expected large improvement in company profits over the next two years. Company profits net of stock appreciation and excluding North Sea oil should be levelling out now. But on average they will probably be 9.2 per cent lower this year than in 1980 before recovering by 26.7 per cent in 1982.

Total output, as measured by real Gross Domestic Product, is expected to be 1.7 per cent lower in 1981 than last year before rising by 2.8 per cent next year. The fall in 1981 largely reflects the drop that has already occurred. For manufacturing the prospects remain depressed with little growth expected this year or next.

The main impetus behind the recovery in the short-term is expected to be a slowdown in the rate at which stocks are being run down.

Once the stock turnround is over, growth prospects for 1982 and beyond depend on a recovery of final demand. The immediate prospects for consumption are not good. Real incomes, which have grown by 17 per cent over the past three years, are now falling as a rapid deceleration of wages coincides with a pause in the fall in inflation.

Nevertheless, the *Business* School expects consumers to maintain their spending by running down savings. The forecasting relationships, which link savings behaviour to the rate of inflation, suggest that the ratio should decline from a record 15.2 per cent of disposable income last year to 11.2 per cent in 1982. Consequently, consumption should rise slowly despite a fall in real disposable income of 0.8 per cent this year and of 1.3 per cent in 1982.

A similar pattern of stagnation in 1981 followed by recovery in 1982 is forecast for exports, partly reflecting an expected pick-up in world demand as well as an improvement in competitiveness.

The Business School is sceptical about the planned cuts in public spending and assumes no growth from now.

Consequently, the overall prospects for domestic demand are for a small fall in 1981 but a recovery in 1982 and continued modest growth in later years. When stockbuilding is added in, there is a strong rise in total demand during 1981 and 1982.

The Business School acknowledges, however, considerable uncertainty over the change in stock levels.

The rise in output is expected to be less than the increase in domestic demand because a substantial part is forecast to be met by a rapid rise in imports. This is likely to lead to a steady deterioration in the current account of the balance of payments over the next 18 months.

This deterioration is in turn expected to be among the factors expected to bring down the exchange rate towards a level more justified by the rate of growth of the UK money supply and prices in relation to competitors. Other short-term influences are the fall in UK interest rates, relative to those in the U.S. and West Germany, and the current weakness of oil prices.

The trade-weighted index is forecast to fall from 101 (1975=100) to 96 by the end of this year (though this estimate has been somewhat overtaken by the recent fall in sterling) and down to 90 by the fourth quarter of next year.

The resumption of economic growth, together with the fall in the savings ratio and the rise in company profits, will help reduce public sector borrowing. Revenue will increas as output recovers while spending will, on present plans, be stable or falling.

Public sector borrowing also benefits from the shift of incomes towards profits, because these are more heavily taxed than wages at the margin, while any adverse effect on consumption (which is also relatively heavily taxed) is offset by the fall in the savings ratio.

Throughout the period, profits on North Sea oil grow strongly as the sterling value of oil rises rapidly while the pound continues to fall. The effect on tax revenues is large even though the proportion of oil profits which accrues to Government in tax is not expected to rise much further.

For these reasons public sector borrowing is expected to fall to £10½bn in the current financial year and to drop to around £7bn in 1982-83. The favourable factors continue to boost tax revenue and it is assumed (in line with the medium-term financial strategy) that the revenues are used to finance tax cuts, so that borrowing stabilises at around £7bn. There should be scope for a reduction in the basic rate of income tax of 2p to 3p in 1983 and 1984.

The monetary targets of the medium-term financial strategy are reckoned to be feasible against this background, although monetary growth is expected to be consistently at the top end of the target range. Little scope is foreseen for reducing interest rates and an unchanged Minimum Lending Rate is assumed.

World industrial production is forecast to drop by 0.1 per cent this year before rising by 2.2 per cent in 1982.

● *Economic Outlook 1980-84, Volume five, number nine, June 1981. Annual subscription rate £55 in the UK, available from Subscription Department, Gower Publishing, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR.*

Unemployment rises in West Yorkshire

By Rhys David

THE OUTLOOK for industry in West Yorkshire, one of Britain's main manufacturing regions, is generally gloomy according to a county council report on economic trends.

The county's economists estimate that as many as 53,500 jobs were lost in the 18 months to last December if workers who have failed to join the unemployment register, as well as those who have, are taken into account. On this basis the county claims unemployment is closer to 120,000 than the published figure of 100,000.

The number of new opportunities created to take the place of jobs lost was running at two gains for every 10 losses in the seven months to May this year. A large proportion of the new jobs created this year are in supermarket and DIY store developments.

The county, the report notes, remains dependent on the future viability and vitality of basic industries such as textiles, clothing, and engineering, and although newer industries and services have moved in they are no longer growing. Few signs exist of an improvement in the county's economy can be seen.

A further cause of concern to West Yorkshire which has a significant Asian population is the rise in unemployment among its ethnic minorities. They now form 5 per cent of the population and 8 per cent of the unemployed. Young people between 16 and 24 represented around 37 per cent of the unemployed in January.

The report also expresses the county's frustration at the inability or reluctance of Government, and the EEC, to respond to the various initiatives and requests it has put forward for alleviating unemployment. The county has lobbied hard in Brussels for its scheme for Textile Area Regeneration (STAR)

Economists disagree on recovery prospects

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WIDE disagreement exists among City economists about the prospects for recovery and for inflation over the next two years.

The latest batch of stockbrokers' circulars published over the weekend reveals a range of 7 to 14 per cent predicted for the 12-month rate of retail price inflation by the end of 1982. The projections for output growth are in the band of 1¾ to 2½ per cent.

Brokers Hoare Govett argue that activity in the UK has been rising gently and forecast that real Gross Domestic Product this year will be 0.9 per cent higher than in 1980 and will rise by 2.3 per cent in 1982. Unemployment is expected to stabilise at about 2.7m and the annual inflation rate should touch 9.6 per cent at the end of this year and be just in single figures at the end of 1982.

At the other end of the range, brokers Montagu Loebl Stanley and Co. forecast an inflation rate of 12 per cent at the end of this year and of 14 per cent at the end of 1982.

The firm expects a rate of monetary expansion above the official target range. This will require corrective action in the form of higher short-term interest rates.

Brokers Panmure Gordon and Co expect a short-term inflationary bulge caused by the recent fall in sterling. The 12-month rate of increase in retail prices may accelerate to 14.7 per cent in December from the present 11.7 per cent before declining to 7.1 per cent by the end of 1982.

In a lecture to the Chartered Building Societies Institute earlier this month Mr Robert Thomas, of brokers W. Greenwell, argued that the economy will recover, but only very slowly.

"Any further reductions in interest rates will make it more likely that the rise in personal borrowing which occurred in the last three months will be maintained — this has always been an important source of the declining general savings ratio at the start of an economic upturn."

Business in Parliament

TODAY

Commons—Debate on the problems of the Yorkshire and Humberside region. Consideration of Lords amendments to the Insurance Companies Bill. Motion on EEC document on proprietary medicinal products.

Lords—South Yorkshire Bill second reading. Greater London Council (General Powers) (no 2) Bill, third reading. Armed Forces Bill, second reading. Zoo Licensing (no 2) Bill, second reading. Debate on regulating the distribution and availability of discounted air tickets.

Select Committees—Home affairs. Sub-committee on race relations and Immigration. Subject: the operation and effectiveness of the Commission for Racial Equality. Witnesses: regional offices of the Commission for Racial Equality. (room 15, 11 am.) Education, Science and Arts. Subject: public and private funding of the arts. Witnesses: Welsh National Opera, Scottish National Opera, English National Opera, Royal Opera House. (room 6, 4 pm.) Energy. Subject: energy conservation. Witnesses: Eurisol, the Fenestration Council, Association of Control of Manufacturers. (room 5, 4.30 pm.) Treasury and Civil Service. Subject: financing of the nationalised industries. Witnesses: Mr Michael Posner; Sir George Jefferson. (room 15, 4.30 pm.)

TOMORROW

Commons—Debate on the conduct of Mr Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary. Remaining stages of the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Bill. Motion on the supplementary benefit (requirement and resources) amendment regulations.

Lords—Social Security Bill, report stage. Iron and Steel Bill, report stage. Employment and Training Bill, second reading. Transport Act 1962 (Amendment) Bill, committee stage. Representation of the People Bill, second reading. Debate on need for further discussions with Argentine Government to resolve dispute over sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

WEDNESDAY

Commons—Debate on Opposition motion on the car industry. Motions on the London Docklands Corporation (Area and Constitution) and (Amendment) Order, Vesting of Land (Port of London Authority) and (Greater London Council) Order.

Lords—Motions to approve London Docklands Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) Order 1980, London Docklands Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) (Amendment) Order. London Docklands Development Corporation (Vesting of Land) (Greater London Council) Order. Consideration of Commons Amendments to Contempt of Court Bills. Forestry Bill, third reading. Criminal Attempts Bill, report stage.

Select Committee—Education, Science and Arts. Subject: public and private funding of the arts. Witnesses: Mr John Boulting, Mr Roy Boulting, Mr Tom Burrill, Mr Benny Figz, Mr Steve Kennis, Mr Chris Mills and Mr Alan Sapper. (room 6, 10.30 am.) Scottish Affairs. Subject: youth unemployment in Scotland. Witnesses: British Youth Council (Scotland); Institute of Careers Officers (room 5, 10.30 am.) Defence. Subject: The Royal Dockyards and the Dockyards study. Witnesses: Trade Union side of the Government Industrial Shipbuilding Trades Joint Council (room 15, 11.15 am.) Public Accounts. Subject: BNOC's capital structure; forward oil sales; British Gas. Witnesses: Dept. of Energy. (room 16, 4 pm.) Energy. Subject: North Sea Oil depletion. Witness: Lord Balogh. (room 6, 4.15 pm.) Employment. Subject: the legal immunities of trade unions and other related matters. Witnesses: Association of British Chambers of Commerce; CBI (room 8, 4.30 pm).

THURSDAY

Commons—Motions on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (continuance) Order and on the Northern Ireland 1974 (Interim Period Extension) Order.

Lords—Social Security Bill, third reading. Representation of the People Bill, committee and remaining stages. Transport Bill, report. Indecent Displays (Control) Bill, third reading. Countryside Scotland Bill, third reading.

FRIDAY

Commons—Debate on the disabled with special reference to the International Year of Disabled People.

Lords—Disabled Persons (no 2) Bill, report. Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Bill, consideration of Commons amendments.

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This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior posts at Vosper Group

Mr Robert C. Du Cane has been appointed managing director of VOSPER HOVERMARINE, the Southampton based subsidiary of Vosper Limited. He was formerly managing director of the Group's Singapore yard. Mr Brian Smith has been appointed financial director of Vosper Hovermarine in succession to Mr Kenneth D. C. Ford, who remains financial director of the parent company and a non-executive director of Vosper Hovermarine.

*

Mr K. J. T. Pakenham, a director of Amex Bank, has resigned from the boards of IVORY AND SIME and Ivory and Sime Assets.

*

Mr D. G. Woodcraft has been appointed an executive director of BARROW HEPBURN GROUP P.L.C. from July 1. He was previously with GEI International, where he had held the positions of managing director of GEI Packaging Machinery and then managing director of Midland Steel Products.

*

Three directors have been appointed to the boards of ANGLIA TELEVISION and the Anglia Television Group. They are Mr Peter Gibbings, chairman of the Guardian and Manchester Evening News; Mrs John Nutting, of Chicheley Hall, Newport Pagnell, Berks, a member of the executive council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and a member of the National Trust regional committee for the home counties; and Mr Patrick Sharman of Hill House, Ellington, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, a director of Sharman Newspapers of Peterborough and chairman of Hereward Radio.

*

Mr Richard A. Lee has been appointed sales and marketing director for ALFA ROMEO (GB). Mr Lee was manager of medium, large and speciality car marketing for Ford of Europe.

*

Mr Denis Mahony, plant manager of CONTROL DATA's Magnetic Products Operations plant at Brynmawr, South Wales, has been appointed to the board. Mr Mahony retains his position as manager of the plant in addition to his new role as a director.

*

Mr Kenneth C. Brangwin has retired as chairman of F. W. THORPE and he will be succeeded by Mr Ernest G. Thorpe. Mr Brangwin will continue as a non-executive director.

*

Lt-Cmdr R. E. F. de Pass has been elected chairman of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, in succession to Mr R. F. Burman, whose term of office has expired. Mr J. S. Paton has been elected deputy chairman.

*

Mr David Oates has been appointed managing director of TOM SMITH AND COMPANY. The promotion follows the resignation of the previous managing director, Mr Gordon Pennington, and sales director Mr Richard Gray, who are leaving to take up new appointments.

*

Mr J. F. P. Parsons, acting chairman and managing director of FRANCIS SHAW AND COMPANY, has been elected chairman.

APPOINTMENTS OVERSEAS

Mr Göran Lundberg has been appointed managing director of STAL-LAVAL TURBIN AB from October. Mr Lundberg is general manager of SKF Steel, Hofors. Mr Lundberg succeeds Mr Larsson, who has expressed a desire not to continue as managing director up to the age of 65. Mr Larsson will remain on the board of STAL-LAVAL Turbin AB and will join the boards of a number of subsidiaries in the ASEA Group. In addition, Mr Larsson, reporting direct to the managing director of ASEA, will carry out special assignments in conjunction with company acquisitions, restructurings and investments in new areas of technology. STAL-LAVL Turbin AB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASEA.

*

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has appointed Mr Richard S. Jones deputy manager of its New York branch and senior representative, New York representative office with effect from July. Mr Jones succeeds Mr William D Moffat.

*

Mr Gordon Haworth has been appointed president of COSTAIN HOLDINGS INC and a new office has been opened in Chicago. Mr Haworth will be responsible for planned investment in U.S. mining operations. Mr Haworth joins Costain from the Continental Illinois Bank, where he held the position of vice president and manager, mining construction and utilities group. Mr Ron Samuel, managing director of Costain Mining will continue to be responsible for the group's contract mining activities—other than Australia—and will be working closely with Mr Haworth to develop mining investment opportunities in North America.

*

Mr Gunther P. Eschenbrenner has become vice president and director of engineering operations for THE M.W. KELLOGG COMPANY, a subsidiary of Wheelabrator-Frye Inc.

Analysis of bank advances and acceptances

to UK residents by banks in the UK at May 20, 1981; as Table 5 in the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin.

£m		TOTAL TO UK RESIDENTS Total	of which in sterling	of which in foreign currencies	FINANCIAL Total financial	of which in sterling	Hire-purchase finance houses	Property companies	Other financial
London clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	28,618	27,434	1,184	2,068	1,895	181	924	963
	May 20	29,035	27,854	1,181	2,118	1,947	194	962	962
Scottish clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	3,889	3,651	238	357	313	103	93	160
	May 20	3,940	3,699	240	376	340	117	100	160
Northern Ireland banks	1981 Feb. 18	870	869	1	36	36	2	29	5
	May 20	844	844	1	37	37	2	31	4
All banks	1981 Feb. 18	65,528	55,053	10,475	10,449	7,777	2,089	2,364	5,996
	May 20	67,815	56,382	11,432	10,892	7,910	2,001	2,425	6,466
of which in sterling	1981 Feb. 18	55,053			7,777		2,030	2,156	3,591
	May 20	56,382			7,910		1,941	2,175	3,795
Changes: in sterling	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	+1,998			+247		−202	+155	+295
	1981 Feb./May	+1,329			+133		− 89	+ 19	+204
in foreign currencies adjusted for exchange rate effects§	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	−376			+ 73		− 17	− 40	+130
	1981 Feb./May	+ 26			+ 69		− 4	+ 23	+ 50

		MANUFACTURING Total manufacturing	of which in sterling	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals and allied industries	Metal manufacture	Electrical engineering	Other engineering and metal goods	Shipbuilding †	Vehicles	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing
London clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	7,819	7,456	1,032	686	475	600	1,909	439	500	637	1,541
	May 20	7,307	6,877	896	706	403	575	1,741	457	363	653	1,541
Scottish clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	851	820	185	93	42	39	154	124	20	64	130
	May 20	791	754	167	74	41	40	120	131	16	74	129
Northern Ireland banks‡	1981 Feb. 18	140	139	34				45			25	36
	May 20	118	118	31				38			19	30
All banks	1981 Feb. 18	18,021	15,154	3,006	2,752	1,003	1,525	3,408	645	1,336	1,090	3,255
	May 20	17,624	14,411	2,858	2,940	929	1,420	3,188	691	1,123	1,138	3,337
of which in sterling	1981 Feb. 18	15,154		2,400	2,073	883	1,304	2,939	619	1,228	993	2,715
	May 20	14,411		2,298	2,112	803	1,188	2,656	669	989	1,020	2,677
Changes: in sterling	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	+556		+ 58	+219	+ 14	− 12	+ 68	+ 15	+123	− 41	+112
	1981 Feb./May	−743		−102	+ 39	− 80	−116	−283	+ 50	−239	+ 27	− 38
in foreign currencies adjusted for exchange rate effects§	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	−208		− 67	− 46	− 14	+ 23	+ 17	− 12	− 17	− 36	− 56
	1981 Feb./May	+ 87		− 95	+ 84	− 6	− 7	+ 21	− 7	+ 15	+ 12	+ 69
Advances only All banks	1981 Feb. 18	15,947	13,103	2,561	2,429	791	1,335	3,188	644	1,030	984	2,984
	May 20	15,361	12,195	2,391	2,510	727	1,213	2,950	683	885	1,016	2,988

		OTHER PRODUCTION Total other production	of which in sterling	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Construction	PERSONS Total persons	of which in sterling	For house purchase	Other
London clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	3,971	3,934	2,244	182	1,545	6,502	6,496	2,036	4,466
	May 20	4,285	4,242	2,466	252	1,567	7,173	7,168	2,293	4,880
Scottish clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	857	795	628	77	153	665	662	198	467
	May 20	886	814	654	90	142	724	721	218	505
Northern Ireland banks	1981 Feb. 18	243	243	184	5	54	182	182	47	135
	May 20	244	244	187	5	52	188	188	48	139
All banks	1981 Feb. 18	7,200	6,346	3,207	1,579	2,414	9,528	9,494	2,897	6,631
	May 20	7,771	6,793	3,452	1,846	2,473	10,362	10,320	3,198	7,164
of which in sterling	1981 Feb. 18	6,346		3,181	848	2,317	9,494		2,892	6,603
	May 20	6,793		3,426	1,007	2,360	10,320		3,192	7,128
Changes: in sterling	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	+ 88		+ 27	+ 20	+ 42	+458		+140	+319
	1981 Feb./May	+447		+345	+159	+ 43	+826		+300	+525
in foreign currencies adjusted for exchange rate effects§	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	−124		+ 1	−125	—	− 6		—	− 6
	1981 Feb./May	+ 46		− 1	+ 40	+ 7	+ 6		+ 1	+ 5

		SERVICES Total services	of which in sterling	Transport and communications	Public utilities and national government	Local government	Retail distribution	Other distribution	Professional, scientific and miscellaneous
London clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	8,258	7,653	663	437	68	1,769	1,528	3,792
	May 20	8,152	7,621	677	300	66	1,800	1,440	3,859
Scottish clearing banks	1981 Feb. 18	1,158	1,060	140	59	90	183	155	530
	May 20	1,163	1,070	145	56	97	189	148	527
Northern Ireland banks‡	1981 Feb. 18	269	269		20	7	102	44	96
	May 20	257	257		20	8	97	39	93
All banks	1981 Feb. 18	20,330	16,281	2,164	1,448	1,689	2,753	4,718	7,558
	May 20	21,166	16,948	2,353	1,287	1,855	2,884	4,759	8,029
of which in sterling	1981 Feb. 18	16,281		1,309	289	1,677	2,725	3,085	7,196
	May 20	16,948		1,334	391	1,841	2,841	2,954	7,587
Changes: in sterling	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	+648		+ 58	− 82	+ 89	−207	+145	+644
	1981 Feb./May	+667		+ 25	+102	+164	+116	−131	+391
in foreign currencies adjusted for exchange rate effects§	Nov.'80/Feb.'81	−112		+104	−137	+ 4	− 6	− 23	− 53
	1981 Feb./May	−183		+ 84	−350	—	+ 11	+ 25	+ 46

† Including lending under special schemes for domestic shipbuilding. ‡ The analysis provided by Northern Ireland banks differs slightly from other banks. Chemicals and allied industries are included indistinguishably in "Other manufacturing"; Metal manufacture, Electrical engineering, Shipbuilding and Vehicles in "Other engineering and metal goods"; and Transport and Communications in "Public utilities and national government." § The figures exclude as far as possible the effect of changes in exchange rates on the sterling value of advances in foreign currencies.

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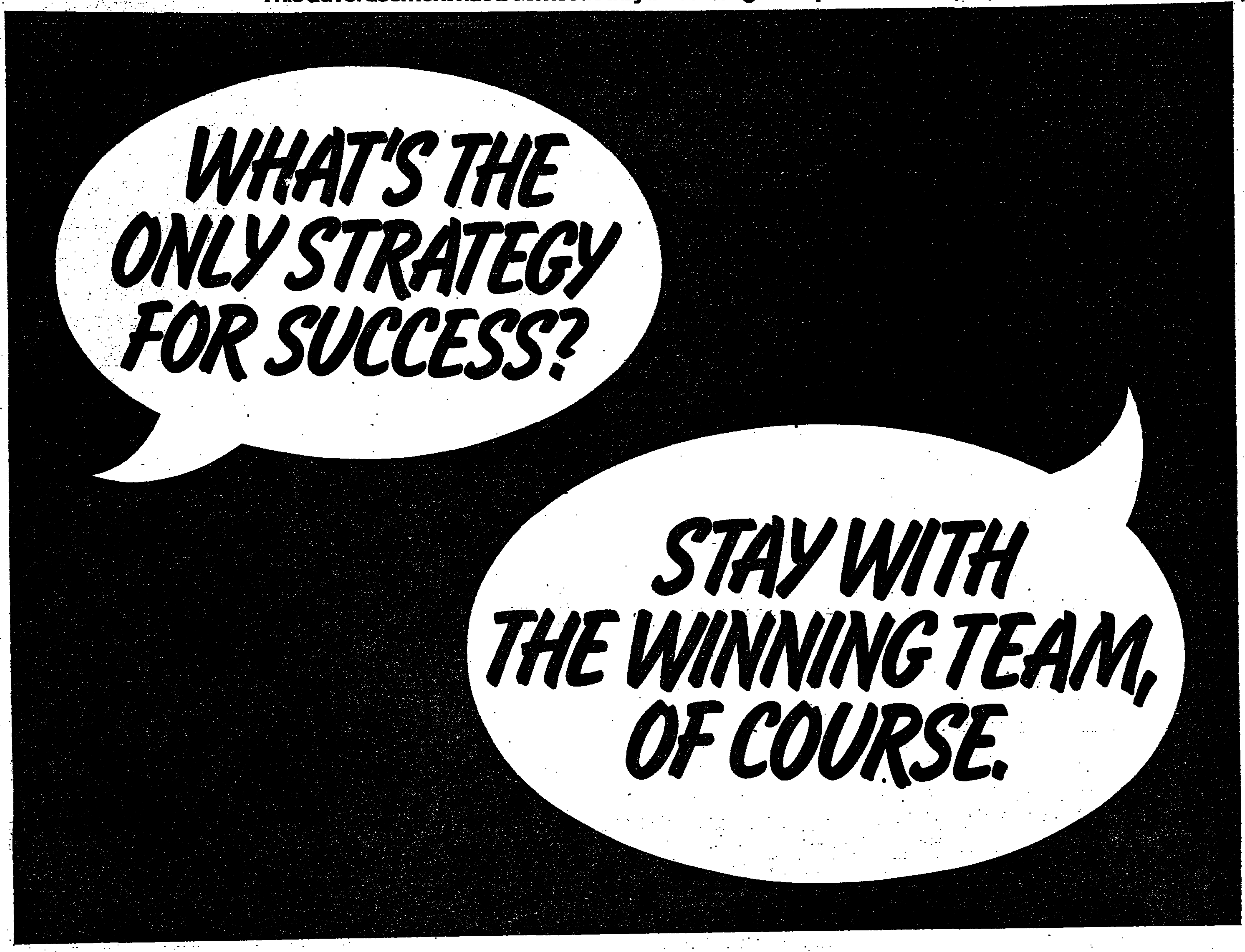
This advertisement has been issued by British Sugar Corporation Limited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And that's why we urge shareholders to continue to reject the opportunistic and illogical Berisford bid.

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The publication of this advertisement has been approved by a duly authorised committee of the Board of British Sugar Corporation Limited. Each Director has taken all reasonable care to ensure that both the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each Director of British Sugar Corporation Limited accepts responsibility accordingly.

BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

June 30-July 2 ...	Electronics Show (Saffron Walden 22612)	University of Leeds
July 1-5	International Cycle Show (01-643 8040)	Harrogate
July 15-Aug. 1 ...	The Royal Tournament (01-930 6009)	Earls Court
July 19-23	Autumn '81 Lightshow (Moelfre 88396)	Olympia
July 19-23	21st Harrogate Gift Fair (0382 867153)	Harrogate
Aug. 21-31	Motorcycle Show—BIKE '81 (01-385 1200)	Earls Court
Aug. 23-26	International Craft and Hobby Fair (04252 72711)	Wembley Conference Centre
Aug. 23-28	Solar World Forum—International Energy Society Congress and Exhibition (01-493 6601)	Brighton Centre
Sept. 3-5	Business and Light Aviation Show (01-643 8040)...	Cranfield Airfield
Sept. 6-10	Watch, Jewellery and Silver Trades Fair (01-643 8040)	Earls Court
Sept. 8-10	Laboratory 81 Exhibition (0799 22612)	Grosvenor House, W1
Sept. 15-18	Offshore Europe 81 Exhibition and Conference (01-549 5831)	Aberdeen

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

June 30-July 2 ...	Fifth International Conference and Exhibition on Marine Transport Using Roll-on Roll-off Methods (09237 76363)	Hamburg
July 7-11	International Oil and Gas Exposition (01-637 8575)	Mexico City
July 8-12	International Audio-Visual Equipment Exhibition (021-705 6707)	Singapore
Aug. 24-28	International Public Works and Municipal Services Exhibition—CIVICON (01-486 1951)	Johannesburg
Aug. 25-Sept. 2 ...	International Exhibition of Agriculture, Machinery and Produce (01-486 1951)	Mexico
Aug. 28-Sept. 6 ...	International Fair of Consumer Goods (01-874 6034)	Stockholm
Aug. 29-Sept. 2 ...	International Fair (01-734 0543)	Frankfurt
Sept. 4-13	International Radio and TV Exhibition (01-540 1101)	Berlin

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

June 29	Oyez IBC: Effective Romalpa Clauses—How to draft Retention of Title Clauses on the Sale of Goods so as to Defeat a Receiver or Liquidator (01-242 2481)	Cavendish Hotel, W1
June 30-July 1 ...	School of Business Administration: Budgeting with special emphasis on the problems of maintenance expenditure (0233 22101)	Penta Hotel, SW7
July 1	Business Perspectives: The Revitalisation of Britain's Industry and Economy (01-584 3132)	Hilton Hotel, W1
July 2-3	MSS Computer and Business Consultancy: Appreciation of systems analysis and design (Worthing 34755)	Worthing
July 6-10	IPM: The Work of the Personnel Department (01-387 2844)	Embassy Hotel, W2
July 7	Hille International: Office Facility Planning Seminar (01-580 2080)	London Business School
July 8	Parliamentary Information Technology Committee: Education, Training and Information Technology Seminar (01-236 3011)	London, SW1
July 9	New Opportunity Press: The Secrets of the Milk-round (01-444 7281)	Queens Hotel, Leeds
July 12-17	Cranfield School of Management: Marketing of Financial Services (0234 751122)	Bedford
July 12-17	Institute of Bankers/Administrative Staff College, Henley: Business Strategies for the 1980s (01-623 3531)	Henley
July 13-14	The British Computer Society: British National Conference on Databases (01-637 0471)	Jesus College, Cambridge
July 14	Oyez-IBC: Management of Inshore/Offshore Diving Operations (01-242 2481)	Sudbury Conference Theatre, EC1
July 14	The Henley Centre for Forecasting: Agents of social change and their impact (01-353 9961) ...	Tudor Street, EC4
July 14	LCCI: Focus on Italy (01-248 4444)	Cannon Street, EC4
July 15	Liaison Committee for the Cleaning Industry: The Bubbles and the Politics (01-407 2304)	Wembley Conference Centre
July 15	Offshore Suppliers Information Centre: British National Oil Corporation Vendors Forum (01-439 9021)	Glasgow
July 16	Institute of Credit Management: Minis, Micros and Credit Management (0990 23711)	Cumberland Hotel, W1
July 16-17	Brunel Institute: Developing Women (0895 56461)	Uxbridge
July 17-Aug. 2 ...	Investment Seminars International: Offshore investment seminar on international portfolio strategies and techniques (01-839 2922)	Grosvenor House Hotel, London
July 23-24	University of Bradford: The causes and symptoms of company failure (Bradford 42299)	Heaton Mount, Bradford

Anyone wishing to attend any of the above events is advised to telephone the organisers to ensure that there has been no change in the details published.

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June 1981

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R. Nivison & Co.
25 Austin Friars,
London EC2N 2JB

29th June, 1981

هكذا من الأصل

UK NEWS—LABOUR

European unions attack monetarism

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

WEST EUROPEAN trade unions call today for new economic management to tackle unemployment and industrial decay.

The European Trade Union Confederation says revival must not be at the expense of job creation, and that training must be led by public-sector investment programmes.

A six-point "manifesto" is published to coincide with the summit meeting starting today in Luxembourg of EEC heads of government. The plan will be presented to European MPs and Ministers after a rally and march of about 1,000 trade unionists through the city.

In a preface to the programme Mr Wim Kok, president of the ETUC, says the 40m-member confederation is convinced that co-ordinated economic recovery holds the key to national crises.

He identifies these as "mass unemployment, social security cuts, attacks on trade unions, monetarist dogmas, spreading protectionism, violence by extremists, increasing arms spending and growing international tension."

One of the greatest threats is mass unemployment, the manifesto says.

One in 12 workers in Western Europe is unemployed, compared with one in 50 a decade ago. By 1985 that ratio could rise to one in nine, 18m people, unless government policies are changed.

Comparing the task with that facing countries after the war, the ETUC accuses governments of practising "laissez-faire monetarism" in imperfect markets and failing to explain how a low inflation rate can by itself lead to economic recovery.

The first priority, it says, is for Governments to intervene with public investment programmes, since only the public sector "can go against the trend and break the deadlock."

Governments should co-operate to make these programmes "mutually reinforcing." The programmes should cover energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, urban renewal, water supply, sewerage and waste disposal and social services.

Governments should agree to what the ETUC calls "interest-rate disarmament."

Public investment should be discussed with the private sector, just as Governments already use their influence to help depressed regions. Priorities should be worked out between Ministers, employers and unions, and State aid to industry made conditional on following those priorities.

The ETUC calls for more job creation and training schemes, and says that shorter working time is an "essential part" of the recovery programme. It is encouraging unions to demand a 35-hour week, retirement at 60, six weeks' annual holiday, reduction or elimination of overtime, and extra shifts.

Recognising that lower inflation rates are desirable, the ETUC says: "We completely reject the view that the only way to deal with the evil is to tolerate or to make worse the even greater evil of unemployment."

Restrictive policies, despite their very high cost in terms of jobs, appeared to have done little more than to suppress for a time the causes of inflation.

But if governments were to adopt the programme, and "socially progressive policies," unions would respond at the wage-bargaining table.

Deliberate erosion of living standards was bound to fuel opposition.

Mr Wim Kok

The ETUC calls for "a fair sharing of the burdens of change," so that workers and the low-paid in particular are not singled out. Aid to developing countries should be increased. West European countries should spend 0.7 of GNP by 1985 and 1 per cent by 1990.

Railmen likely to vote on Labour deputy leadership

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS of the National Union of Railwaymen will recommend this week to the union's annual conference, which opens today in St Andrews, that the conference should take a decision on which candidate to support in the contest for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

The recommendation, if approved, marks a change for the union. Before last year's party conference, which brought in the constitutional changes in the party, the NUR convened a special recalled annual meeting to decide on its policy.

If approved, and the delegates decide to vote at the conference rather than discuss it further with their branches, then ballot papers will be distributed containing the names of the three candidates.

While Mr Sid Weighell, NUR general secretary, is not expected to make any recommendation on a particular candidate, the union's traditional political moderation would most easily sit with supporting Mr Denis Healey, though the growing Left-wing influence in the union, as shown in a number of recent executive decisions, could still upset calculations.

An indication of the expected way the union will vote on the issue is given by the fact that Mr. Tony Benn's supporters have decided not to attend the conference this week, unlike those of other unions recently. Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, will address delegates next Monday.

In any case, the union's block vote at the Labour Party conference will be reduced this year. The NUR has cut its affiliation to the party from about 180,000 to 165,000, in line with a similar drop in membership.

The conference is also awaiting the result of a British Rail pay tribunal, chaired by Lord McCarthy, into this year's pay rise, for which BR has offered 7 per cent.

There have been signs of the possibility of a two stage increase, with 7 per cent now and 4 per cent later in the pay year. Some NUR officials favour this if the deal cannot for now be in double figures. However, the report seems unlikely to be delivered before the end of next week at the earliest.

Divided views on how to reform union law

Christian Tyler explains the conflict among employers on the future of labour relations

BY ASKING the question what trade union laws, if any, it should introduce next the Government has uncovered an unexpected amount of conflict among Britain's employers.

For every manager who supports Mrs Thatcher's view that the opportunity should be seized to make further legislative inroads into trade union power, there is another arguing just as forcefully with Mr James Prior, Employment Secretary, that to legislate now would jeopardise the whole process of industrial relations reform.

Five months of consultation on a Green Paper on trade union immunities ends tomorrow. Two sets of evidence published today serve only to illustrate how wide is the gap opened by the debate.

The Institute of Personnel Management comes down heavily in support of Mr Prior, calling for "voluntary initiatives" while the Employment Act, 1980, is given time to prove itself.

It specifically urges the Government not to legislate further against the closed shop and to take further legal powers against "secondary" industrial action and picketing only if there is "serious economic and social disruption".

At the other extreme, the Freedom Association, a Right-wing pressure group supported by a number of senior businessmen and Conservative politicians, invokes the moral argument to propose a one-clause Bill outlawing the closed shop entirely.

This conflict of opinion in the business community can be explained in a number of ways.

At one level it is an argument about timing: there are those, like the CBI, who would like to see a great deal more done eventually, but only minor changes in the next Parliamentary session.

And there are those, like the Institute of Directors, who think the Government should move at all speed along a broad front while the going is good.

At another level, it is a difference between the pragmatic industrial relations practitioner (reflected in the evidence of the Institute of Personnel Management, the Industrial Society and the Engineering Employers Federation) and the company boss who has a more ideological or political view.

To confuse matters even further, it looks as if the same managers have been saying different things in different places, according to which hat they were wearing at the time.

There is another dimension to the debate which Ministers will have to consider when they decide in the autumn what to include in the Queen's Speech.

This is the "bad law" argument. One side says legislation can at best only condition trade union attitudes in what is essentially a voluntary system, and at worst can actually disrupt life on the shopfloor.

The other side says the point of the law is that it is there to be used, even at the risk of bankrupting trade unions and allowing their officials or members to throw themselves in jail.

The bad law argument has been adopted most strenuously by the Engineering Employers' Federation, in an attempt to steer the whole debate away from legal immunities.

Instead of increasing the number of circumstances in which unions and their members are liable to damages (breach of procedure, for example) the EEF says the balance of power should be shifted in other ways: principally by allowing employers to lay off workers without pay when business is disrupted by selective strike action.

A rough summary of the published evidence submitted to the Department of Employment shows there is majority support for four amendments: greater financial compensation for closed shop "victims"; the outlawing of union-only clauses in tenders or contracts; a narrower definition of a trade dispute in order to outlaw "political strikes"; and redress against the act of unlawful picketing as well as against named pickets.

But there is no real majority for immediate action on other fundamental legal changes: for example making unions (and hence their funds) liable for the actions of their members; making legal secondary industrial action conditional on ballot votes; or making procedure agreements legally enforceable.

Most employer organisations are keen to see limits on industrial action in essential services like electricity, gas and water supply. But they suggest this is a matter of new pay arrangements and arbitrational procedures rather than legal sanctions.

Inquiry to be held on Civil Service pay

By Philip Bassett, Labour Staff

THE GOVERNMENT will today set up an inquiry into Civil Service pay, amid clear indications that the unions' strike campaign, now entering its 17th week, is having an increasing impact on the payment of pensions and social security benefits.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, and Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, will make separate statements this afternoon to both Houses of Parliament announcing the inquiry's chairman and terms of reference.

The chairman is thought likely to be a retired Lord Justice of Appeal. Not all members of the inquiry team—likely to number at least eight—have yet been appointed. It is expected that the Civil Service Department may want to move quickly this week to help speed the inquiry's start.

The inquiry should produce its recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet by summer of 1982. Talks would then start on trying to draft a new pay agreement based on its recommendations by autumn 1982, to reach a new pay system by 1983. However, some union leaders are sceptical whether this time-table can be adhered to.

The terms of reference, to be announced today, will be very broad. The statements are expected to stress the Government's desire to combine its responsibility as an employer with its duty to control public expenditure.

The inquiry will be expected to take account of all conditions of service, which allow the examination of politically sensitive issues, such as civil servants' job security and index-linked pensions.

The effect of the strikes is demonstrated today by the unprecedented advertisements by Government in national newspapers on the halting of public service pension payments because of action by computer staff at the Paymaster General's Office in Crawley. For about a week, staff have been refusing to put through the computer payments due to about 900,000 pensioners.

The advertisements advise pensioners affected to apply in the first instance to their banks for assistance. Failing that, they should apply to their local social security office.

The unions yesterday claimed, too, that over-payments as a result of computer action had increased average weekly unemployment benefit by about £1 per person, at an estimated cost to the Government of £2m-£3m a week.

Co-op pay deal

ABOUT 100,000 retail Co-operative workers have accepted an 8.6 per cent wage rise after 8 per cent was rejected by ballot, the Co-operative Employers Association said. The deal will cost £43m a year.

BA duties row

ABOUT 200 British Airways pilots on European routes are threatening industrial action over the introduction to their network of a system used on long-haul routes that gives senior captains first choice of flying duties.

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The Port of Bar-Working Organisation (PBWO) advertisement published on June 22nd, the date in paragraph 4 should read July 30th instead of June 30th.

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122 High Street
Evesham
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Tel: Evesham 41251
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Refrigeration
Lubrication Equip
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Telex: 21120 Ref: 1464
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Sheffield S6 1QT
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Telex: 547676
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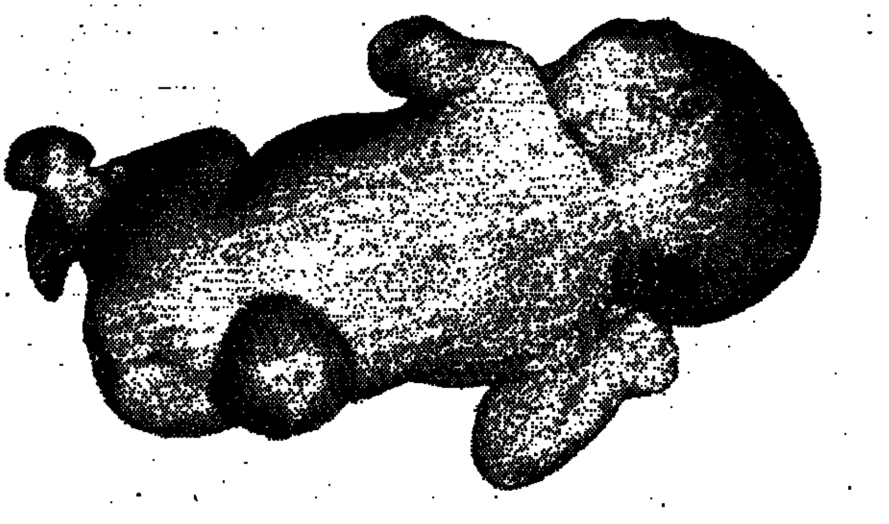
Happy Birthday?

This is Rachel. A few hours before this picture was taken she was born — with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

Not very long ago Rachel would have been a 'hopeless case'. Today, because of advances in medicine and surgery, she has a chance of life — the possibility of growing up with her family and friends, of making her own contribution to society.



But to live her life to the fullest Rachel will always need help. Inevitably she will be paralysed to some extent. She will need constant medical attention to keep hydrocephalus (literally 'water on the brain') under control; special shoes, calipers, walking aids, perhaps a wheelchair, expert training to overcome her disabilities as much as possible, constant encouragement to take her place in the community. Her parents and family may need help, too.

ASBAH — the only organisation in the UK exclusively concerned with helping children born with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus — works and cares for Rachel and all those born with these disabling conditions.

Many thousands of children and young people depend on ASBAH. ASBAH depends on you. ASBAH is a registered charity and without your help our work would cease. Our needs are greater than ever before because of inflation and cuts in social services. Please be as generous as you possibly can.

To ASBAH, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square,
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[illegible]

How to print sixteen novels on a credit card size piece of plastic

THERE is an inexorable trend towards storing more an more data in smaller and smaller spaces. Geoffrey Charlish looks at a U.S. development which could put a million words on six square inches.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE equipment developed by SRI International of Menlo Park in conjunction with Drexler Technology Corporation of Mountain View, California, will allow data equivalent to that held by eight floppy disc stores to be recorded on a credit-card sized piece of plastic material.

One of the cards fully recorded on both sides can hold 40m bits of data, some five million characters or close on a million words of text. This extraordinary total is equivalent to about 16 average-sized novels.

The development could obviously have crucial implications for computer-based information systems. Clearly, a staggering amount of word processor text could be carried on a card in the wallet or a few of them kept in a box no bigger than a packet of 20 cigarettes.

In banking and retailing, cards could carry extended information for transaction purposes.

Complete personal records including a number of recorded images such as "mug shots" could be encoded on a card using only a fraction of the space and could be added to at will over a long period. The data can be obliterated using the appropriate laser unit, but not overwritten.

The recording medium is a refined version of the Drexler "direct read after write" (DRAW) material on which research began in 1976. Called Drexon, it is an organic film into which very fine metallic reflective particles have been introduced on the surface.

Melting point

Reflectivity of the unwritten film is about 50 per cent. When a fine laser beam is focused on the film surface, the metal particles absorb some energy, the film melts locally and so a tiny spot of low reflectivity is created on a field of relatively high reflectivity.

The melting point of 200 deg C is low, calling for small laser powers, and the metal used does not oxidise at room temperatures, giving long life to the surface.

The net result is a very large number of extremely small dark "holes" burned on to a bright background, allowing reading by a reflective process using the same laser.

The dwell time to make a hole (representing one bit) is only of the order of 100 nanoseconds (billionths of a second) and recording is accomplished with a beam under one micron in diameter (a micron is a millionth of a metre). Only three milliwatts (thousandths of a watt) are needed for writing and the result is a reflective contrast of about two to one—although the contrast can be increased by raising the power.

Drexler says that recording has been accomplished with pulse times as low as 44 nanoseconds. The data rate is then 10m bits per second—so that one side of the card mentioned above can be recorded in a matter of seconds. It can be read at 20m bits per second.

The system has a number of other advantages apart from capacity, and speed. For example, the recorded data may be read immediately after writing—no processing is required. Furthermore, the data can be easily added to for updating purposes at a later date.

The recording equipment developed by SRI and offered by Drexler uses a 10 mw semiconductor diode laser, produces five micron holes and the data is recorded in ASCII code using a keyboard.

Quality control

Known as the Laser-Bit Optical Memory Tester, the unit is being offered at an introductory price of $27,000 fob Mountain View until July 31.

Drexler expects that it will find initial application in research departments of companies investigating laser recording systems, for laser encoding studies in optical data storage systems, for quality control and incoming inspection of optical recording media (plates, stripes, discs) — apart from applications with the Drexon cards.

Software provided with the unit allows writing at different laser beam pulse lengths in order to evaluate the energies needed for recording. The data can be read electronically on a CRT monitor or by viewing the recorded hole patterns through the equipment's optical microscope.

THE SRI International equipment can record on both sides of a piece of plastic the size of a credit card 40m bits of data

The read signal amplitude (recording contrast level) can be measured on the face of the CRT monitor tube which when desired, may either display a hole profile or the surface reflectivity level across the surface scanned.

The low numerical aperture of the lens used for writing makes it possible to record on reflective surfaces either directly or through transparent encapsulation films. It is also possible to view real-time dynamics of hole formation using an optional storage oscilloscope.

Drexler Technology Corporation is at 2557 Charleston Road, Mountain View, California 94043. Inquiries to SRI should be directed to Gordon England at SRI-Europe, Africa and the Middle East, NLA Tower, 12 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR0 0XT.

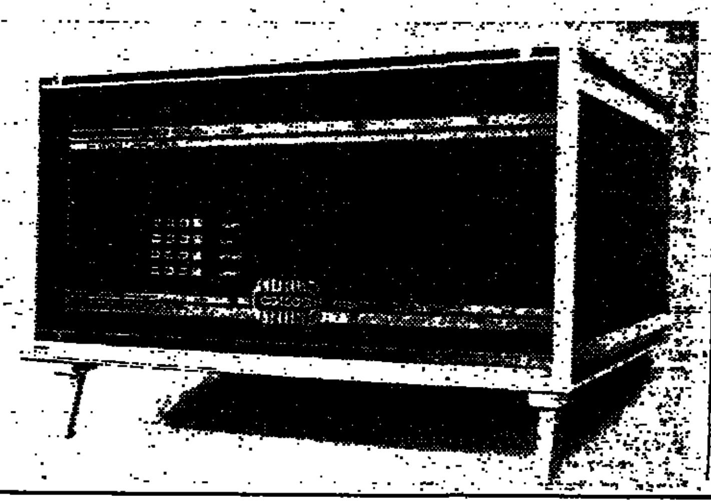
Cutting costs of telephones

CALLOG of 12, Elizabeth Street London (01 730 9056) has introduced this cassette recorder to monitor telephone costs. The system provides a print out recording date, time, destination, number and the cost of each call.

Monthly, or more frequently, if required, the cassette is sent for processing to a regional NCR centre.

The company says that within three days the cassette can be processed and a four-part analysis returned to the customer.

The Callog system can be connected to a maximum of 64 exchange or extension lines. Telephone cost savings are claimed to be between 15 and 30 per cent.



Rotork valve actuator

ROTORK Controls of Lower Weston, Bath (0225 28451) has introduced a new relay version for its Quadrak valve actuator, which, it says, enables most ball valves up to 2 ins bore to be controlled remotely over a light current, two wire circuit, as easily as a solenoid valve.

Quadrak is powered from a standard single phase AC supply and can operate small ball valves at their normal manual operating speed. Power is applied directly to the actuator through pushbuttons or switches.

Controller

WER INDUSTRIAL'S new Focus-1 electronics variable-speed dc motor controller in its range of solid state drives is a single control unit, operating off 115V ac and giving outputs between ¼ and 1.0 hp, and 230V ac for 1/2 and 2 hp ratings and enabling both motor speed and torque to be regulated. It comes in two versions, chassis and enclosed. More on 092-77 88466.

Exhaust

BURGESS PRODUCTS has installed a new finishing plant at its Hinckley, Leics, plant where it makes exhaust systems for most of the car and commercial vehicle manufacturers in the UK.

Further information about the plant in which the chief change is from wet paint finishing to epoxy powder coating can be obtained on 01-236 6128.

Learning to live with nuclear energy on paperback

DAVID FISHLOCK reviews Sir Alan Cottrell's paperback on the safety of nuclear energy, published by Heinemann at £2.50.

"I KNOW so much now about radiation hazards that I roll my car windows up when I'm driving anywhere near Winfrith and I stare in dismay at the spooky-looking types employed there," a Dorset woman was quoted as telling The Guardian this month.

Where on earth does one begin in trying to exorcise such primordial fears about nuclear energy and a national laboratory? There are those who argue that we should simply capitulate to such fears and try to exorcise the technology.

Sir Alan Cottrell, master of Jesus College, Cambridge, is not one of them. He served the Government as its chief scientific adviser in the early 1970s. As had been the case with every chief scientific adviser since the second World War, Sir Alan found nuclear matters —military and civil—bulked large in his workload. Then and since he has worried deeply about the yawning gulf between some people's perception of nuclear energy and the facts.

Sir Alan has now made a masterly attempt to cast out some of the more extravagant fears and flights of fancy. The opening sentence of his latest book, published today* sets the tone perfectly: "A situation so full of fear and confusion that responsible members of the general public feel compelled to write of the 'malignant growth of nuclear powers stations' is quite intolerable. The general public is entitled to something better than this."

He believes that what counts with the public at large is whether or not nuclear energy is safe. Other issues that surely will be trailed at next year's public inquiry at Sizewell — such as costs, uranium supplies, and the need for electricity — are simply red herrings introduced to confuse people further.

His paperback therefore focuses on the question of how an industry which actually has a remarkably good record for safety should "now find it quite hard to get a fair reporting." Newspapers and TV find it so much more fun to present nuclear workers as spooks.

Private venture

Where critics of nuclear safety fail completely to agree, however, is over just which of the industry's activities are unsafe. Some will somberly assure you that nuclear reactors can explode like nuclear bombs. Cottrell explains very simply why this cannot happen, nor came remotely near happening at Windscale in 1957 or on Three Mile Island in 1979.

Some still assure you that the real danger is that we tolerate too much radiation leakage from the industry. Cottrell takes only eight pages to show that if this were so, the medical evidence would be startlingly clear in a number of closely observed populations, including Japanese atomic bomb survivors and airline hostesses.

Some will assure you that radio-active wastes from nuclear plants are the over-riding hazard. And others that it is the danger that fuels for nuclear reactors will be diverted into national and even private-venture nuclear weapons programmes. Some even extrapolate this last fear and profess to believe that, so onerous must be the security surrounding nuclear fuels, our civil liberties are gravely threatened.

Cottrell deals patiently, dispassionately and fearlessly with each of these worries, never resorting to polemic, never ignoring the warts, never taking refuge in jargon. Neither, however, does he hesitate to say, when the argument leads remorselessly to such a conclusion: "This objection can hardly be taken seriously."

Come the final chapter the author has laid bare the canvas of nuclear activities. No common thread of nuclear hazard has survived his meticulous forensic skills. Nuclear energy is safe enough.

The common thread that remains, he discovers, is "the manifestation of a more general aversion to modern Western society, to massive industrialisation, high technology, central bureaucracy and security forces, and to free enterprise and economic growth." In short, it is a political and not a technical objection.

Starry-eyed

A genuine concern with nuclear safety, he concludes, must produce a conclusion much like that of the 1976 Flowers Report, giving a qualified acceptance but discriminating between different nuclear developments. Political objectors give themselves away when they refuse to discriminate, refuse to admit that there is any redeeming feature anywhere in nuclear energy. How, he asks, could the most starry-eyed Energy Minister possibly ignore "such a damning list of minuses, without a single relieving plus." How did we ever get a single one of those nuclear plants and laboratories built?

**How safe is nuclear energy?* Sir Alan Cottrell, FRS. Heinemann, pp. 128, £2.50

POINTERS

Microfiche

IDEAL, Office Equipment (John Dale) says, for banks and insurance companies, also applicable to a wide range of industry, the Plandale DM1 microfiche destroyer makes it possible for destruction of fiche to be decentralised.

As many as six diazo fiches at a time can be inserted in the destruction tube of the automatic device. Using a thermofusion process it destroys the fiche, leaving an indecipherable residue. The DM1 costs £136.50 plus VAT. Further details on 01-407 8511.

Grinder

AUTOOL HAS introduced a new low cost knife profile grinder, Model PR/4, for forming tungsten carbide cutters of all types. It has a sensitive free-floating table for holding the cutter or tool head and also for securing the template which is a reverse of the profile required. Flat cutters of any conventional type for use on square or round heads and slotted collars can be profiled up to 100 mm wide. More on 0282 71838.

Simulator

A SIMULATOR designed and built by Vosper Thornycroft Controls for training naval teams to operate and maintain the complex machinery of the new Hunt-class mine-countermeasures vessels is being used at HMS Sultan, the Royal Naval Marine Engineering School at Gosport, Hants. Vosper Thornycroft has entered the field of simulation as an extension of its work on ships' machinery controls. More on 0329-283411.

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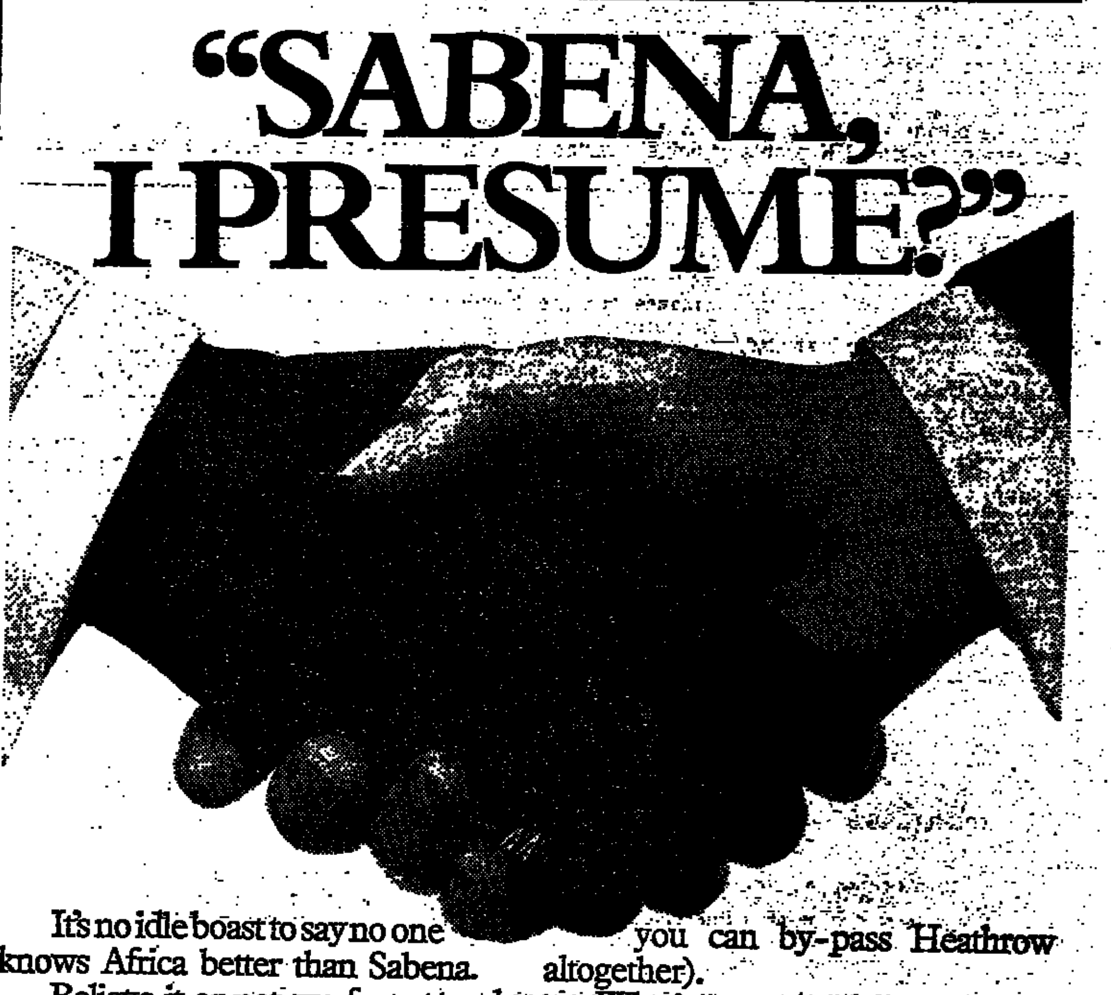
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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

How a multinational tries to solve its productivity puzzle

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN

"WE USED to keep this a secret, but I don't see the point anymore." With these words Bill Henry—chairman of Coats Patons until a week ago—revealed the textile group's comparisons of labour costs in 30 countries. These figures, kept under wraps for several decades, illustrate graphically the special problems of manufacturing in the UK.

Henry, who spent 47 years with Coats, may be the first chairman of a major UK manufacturing group to have made public his company's calculations on the question of relative labour costs around the world.

Coats started comparing relative labour costs in the 1930s when the group first installed an American system of standard costing. And it is undoubtedly in a better position than most UK companies to make such comparisons.

As a genuine multinational corporation, based in Glasgow and active on all of the world's continents, it has a wealth of experience in jostling with exchange rates, inflation and various cultural attitudes. Group turnover last year was £989m and more than 90 per cent of group trading profits of £66.4m came from overseas.

The company manufactures its thread products in a similar manner in 30 countries. Its factories are designed to be most efficient when running on a treble-shift basis. The company operates on this basis because it finds that the use of a treble-shift production system provides the best opportunity to keep costs down and gives the flexibility needed to react to changes in demand. Thus, for example, it may be more cost-effective to have short-time working on a treble-shift basis than it is to switch to manufacturing the same quantity of product in one or two shifts.

But while the group's managers have proved adept at making complex decisions on manufacturing in Brazil and India, the business at home has been less successful. UK profits have been squeezed for a variety of reasons, many of them endemic to the depressed fibre and thread sector. But labour costs and productivity have proved formidable obstacles.

Last year Coats made an effective UK profit (after deducting property disposals and interest charges) of just £3m on a UK turnover of £251m and assets employed of £145.3m. This is a return on capital of just 2 per cent, reflecting both the woes of the textile business and the high costs of labour.

Last year the company made 3,000 UK workers redundant. This year the group expects to reduce its UK workforce by a further 1,000. Within three years, according to Coats, the UK workforce could be down from its present level of around 20,000 to around 15,000.

Strikes

The group uses its international comparisons to determine both the size of its workforce and investments. Relative costs suggest, says Coats, that the UK is only 65 per cent as efficient as West Germany on the basis of factors such as automation, strikes, indirect labour costs and technical conditions.

The UK's effective costs of labour is 29 per cent higher than that of West German industrial concerns. This is despite the fact that in purely financial terms, as at April 21, Coats' German labour costs were 33 per cent above its UK operations on a single shift basis and 15 per cent above the UK on a treble shift basis.

In arriving at these shift work comparisons, Coats uses a complicated method of calculating relative labour costs. The figures represent a cocktail of factors such as exchange rates, base wages in different countries and charges on labour such as national insurance payments and taxes.

But there is also an unquantifiable variable, which the company refers to as "social attitudes." Why is it easier to install labour-saving machinery and make West German workers redundant than it is to do the same thing in the UK? Henry says one of the reasons is the co-operative nature of two-tier boards in West German companies.

Another reason, however, is less easy to explain: "It works because they are German."

The importance of social attitudes around the world cannot be understated, says Henry. In the U.S., for example, a new recruit expects to work "unsociable hours" in a treble shift factory.

The problem at home, he maintains, is that Britons have never faced up to making a critical choice between the high material standards of West Germany or the U.S. and the vague concept of "quality of life."

This concept involves not working unsociable hours and often preferring leisure to financial reward. Henry believes that if British workers prefer this "quality of life" they should not complain when they discover that Britain is a highly civilised country with a low standard of living.

Returning to the question of relative labour costs, Henry feels that exchange rates are the most important factor used in calculating the Coats table. The table is revised once a month on the basis of shifting exchange rates. A crucial matter, regardless of the base wage factor, is the repatriation of earnings from abroad.

Last year Coats reckons its profits would have been £12.2m higher had it not been for adverse exchange translation. This year the group might gain £5m to £6m because of the weaker pound. In calculating its investment decisions, exchange rates are as vital a factor as base wage costs.

Coats says that since 1977 it has forfeited a total of £53m because of adverse exchange rates. Among the worst problems has been the relationship between the Brazilian Cruzeiro and sterling. At one stage in 1979 Brazil devalued its currency by 30 per cent.

With a steadily depreciating Cruzeiro, Brazil does not look like the most attractive place from which to repatriate profits. But it is one of the jewels in the Coats crown. Labour cost is one reason.

Brazilian labour, as at April 21, cost only 31 per cent as much as UK labour (see table). Coats has a dominant market share in Brazilian threads and is thus able to achieve a treble shift operation which is profitable enough to beat the exchange rate nightmare.

Another part of the labour cost cocktail is the base wage. In India, the cost of labour as at April 21 was 13 per cent that of UK labour.

But the former chairman points out that it may be more profitable to invest in new machinery in the U.S. than in the south of India. In fact, a lower wage rate does not immediately imply new investment; capital expenditure may be more attractive in a high wage country where the investment saves wage costs through a reduced labour force.

In policy planning, Coats says it has relied on labour cost figures pretty heavily. These figures have played an influential part in the decision to direct more investment overseas, particularly to the Far East.

"We follow growth. Our investment will inevitably be foreign and our rationalisation will inevitably be in the EEC," says Henry.

He adds that much of Coats' foreign investment will be in ventures which will eventually export back to the EEC.

Does this mean that Coats will pay increasing attention to the development of foreign manufacturing platforms in the Far East? Yes, say both Bill Henry and Charles Wallace, the finance director.

Greenfield

Wallace is the Coats director who must put the labour comparisons and investment recommendations into practice. He agrees that in terms of labour costs and productivity, the UK is at a disadvantage. There is overcapacity in the UK and on the Continent in the textile business. Therefore, says Wallace, Coats will expand in Latin America and the Far East, possibly adding 1,000 workers to Coats' operations in these areas over the next three years.

At home, the group is concentrating on the development of "greenfield" ventures outside of the mainstream business. According to Coats, this is because it can be more cost-efficient to do this than to re-shape old textile manufacturing enterprises.

In considering its UK strategy, the social aspect is very significant, adds Wallace. In fact, he notes, the management must share, along with the trade unions, some of the blame for the level of productivity. "Sometimes the management doesn't tell the workforce what the score is. There is not enough hard talk in this country."

Coats, however, claims that it is unafraid of "hard talk." The future will include a reduced UK/European workforce, distinctly heavier investment overseas and an emphasis on new ventures at home.

As a percentage of overall group profits, the overseas portion can be expected to remain in excess of 90 per cent. In line with this breakdown, Coats will act to reduce its UK workforce of 20,000 and increase its overseas staff of 40,000.

As Henry explains: "You either do something about the situation or you disappear".

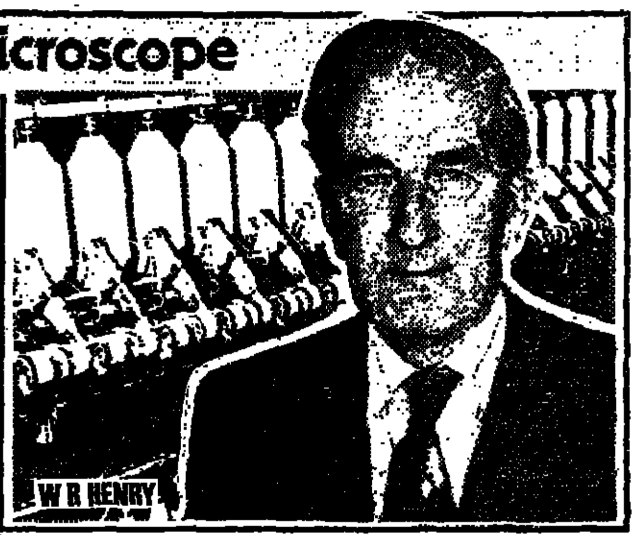
Coats is certainly trying to "do something" and its managers are making full use of its statistics on relative labour costs in their planning. These executives admit that despite a frequent updating of variables such as exchange rates, there can be many intangibles.

But as Henry explains: "You set standards. You calculate the cost of production. You get different results. If they are beneficial you want to know why you can't get them all the time. If they are adverse, you want them removed."

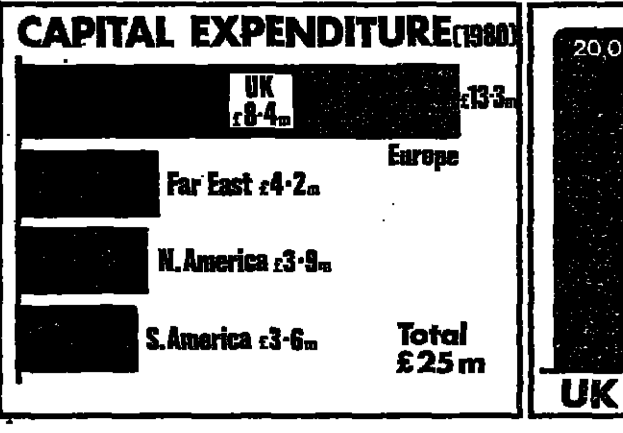
COATS PATONS under the microscope

COMPARATIVE LABOUR COSTS

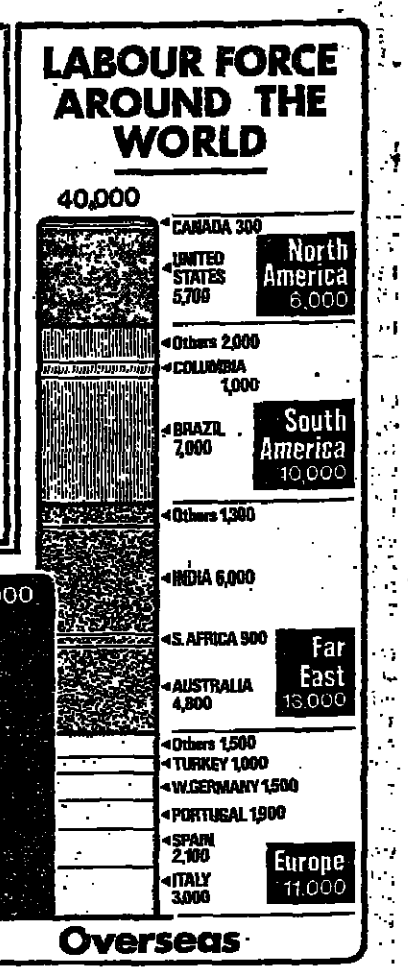
	Single Shift		Double Shift		Treble Shift	
	Total Cost £/HR	Index	Total Cost £/HR	Index	Total Cost £/HR	Index
UK	2.678	100	3.186	100	3.481	100
Italy	3.259	122	3.499	110	4.943	121
W Germany	3.561	133	3.696	116	3.913	115
Canada	3.596	134	3.564	112	3.613	109
U.S.	3.134	117	3.134	98	3.157	96
Portugal	1.076	40	1.177	37	1.799	42
Colombia	0.958	36	1.121	35	1.304	25
Brazil	0.840	31	1.009	32	1.065	31
Peru	0.611	23	0.620	19	0.637	19
India	0.342	13	0.345	11	0.416	11
Philippines	0.276	10	0.276	9	0.282	8
Indonesia	0.166	6	0.169	5	0.168	5



W R HENRY



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (1980)



LABOUR FORCE AROUND THE WORLD

Coats Patons calculates its international labour cost comparisons once a month (those above left as at April 21) for use as a management tool in making investment and production decisions. The UK is used as the basis of this index (100) and the relative figures are calculated on the basis of base wage rates in different countries, charges on labour such as national insurance and payroll taxes and the latest exchange rates.

Business courses

Working and Living Abroad, London July 15 Fee: £42 per person, £67 per couple. Details from The Short Course Unit, Polytechnic of Central London, 35 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS

Planning Family and Career, Uxbridge. July 11-12. Fee: £60. Details from The Secretary, Management Programme, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH.

Finance for the Non-Financial Executive, Slough. July 13-17. Fee: £300 (plus VAT). Details from Urwick Management Centre, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3PF

Techniques for the Experienced Manager, Bradford. July 12-24. Details from Course Secretary, University of Bradford Management Centre, Heaton Mount, Keighley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD9 4JU.

The Impact of Satellite Communications, London. July 9-10. Fee: £275 (plus VAT). Details from C/IS The Yankee Group, Regal House, Lower Road, Chorleywood, Ricksmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 5LQ.

The Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers, Brussels. July 6-10. Details from Management Centre Europe, avenue des Arts 4, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
Notification of Dividend

The Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 26th June 1981 confirmed a dividend in respect of the year ended 31st December 1980 of DM 7 per share of DM 50 nominal value.

The dividend will be paid on or after 29th June 1981 net of 25% withholding tax against submission of dividend coupon no. 37 at one of the paying agents listed in issue no. 115, dated 27th June 1981, of the German Federal Gazette, the "Bundesanzeiger". In accordance with the Double Taxation Agreement of 26th November 1964, as amended on 23rd March 1970, between the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, withholding tax in respect of shareholders resident in the United Kingdom is reduced from 25% to 15%. To claim this reduction, shareholders must, before 31st December 1985, submit an application for reimbursement to the Bundesamt für Finanzen, Koblenzer Straße 63-65, D-5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg.

In the United Kingdom the dividend payment, which is free of charge, will be made in Pounds Sterling with conversion from Deutschmarks at the rate prevailing on the day of submission of the dividend coupon and will take place through the London offices of the following banks:

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, 20 Fenchurch Street,
London, EC3P 3DB.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street,
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The Board of Executive Directors
BASF Aktiengesellschaft

D-6700 Ludwigshafen/Rhine, June 29, 1981

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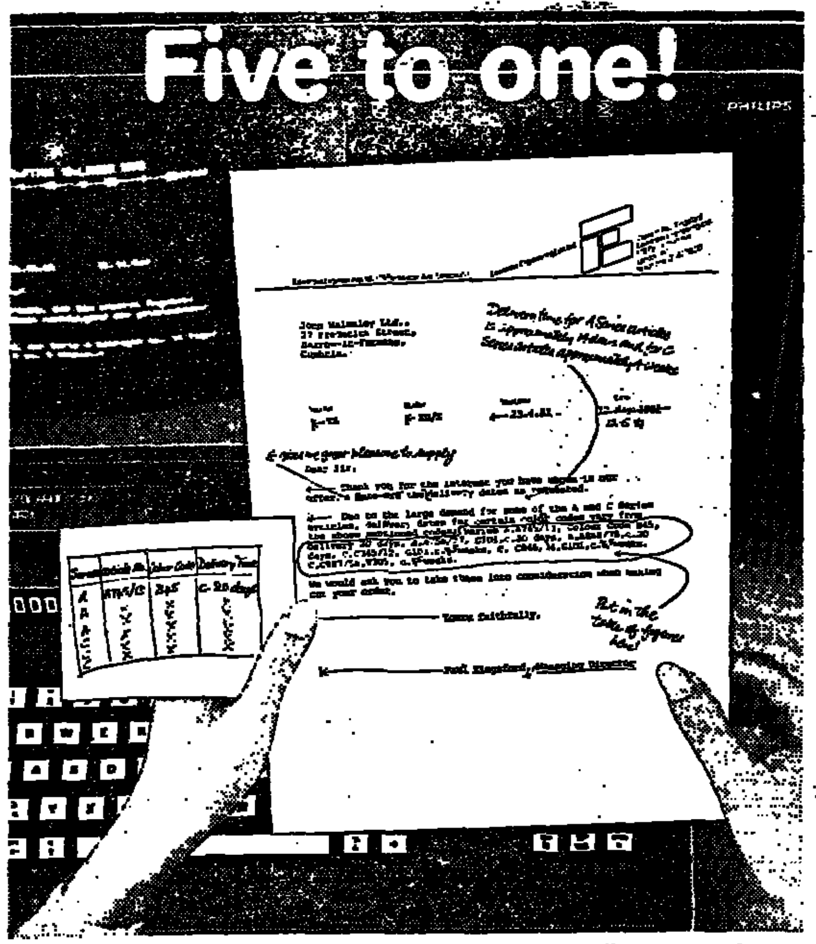

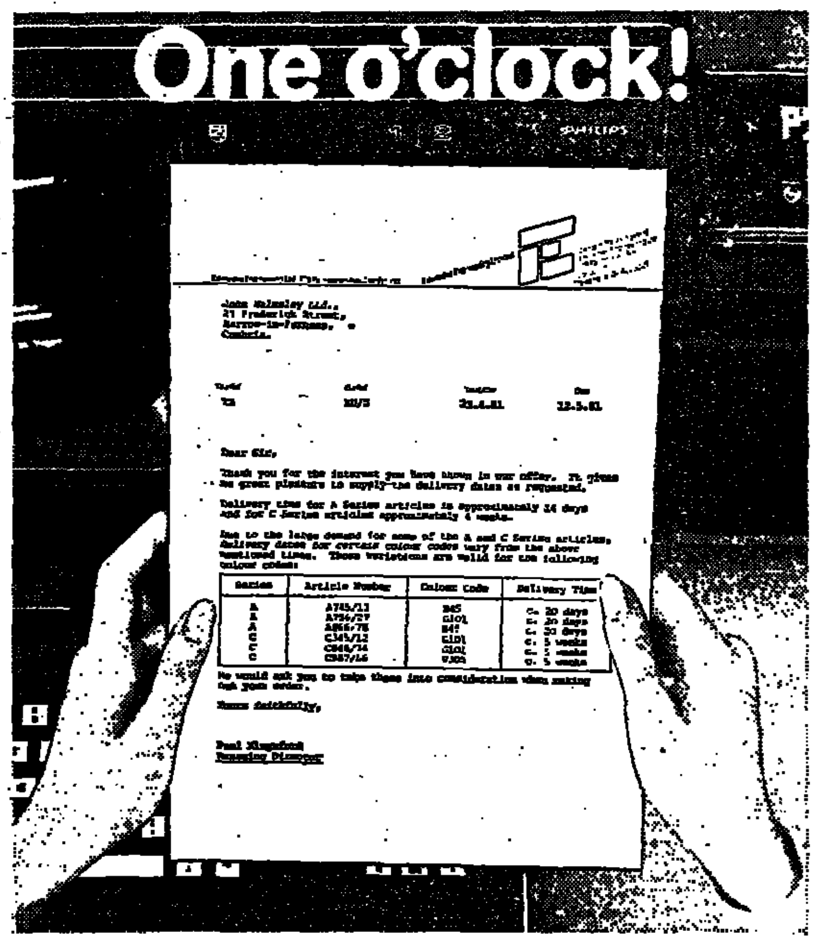

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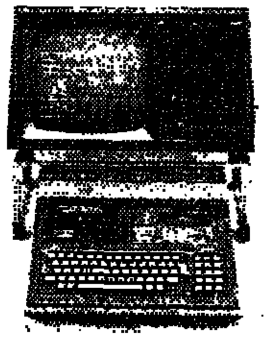

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LOMBARD

Judging the forecasts

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE DEBATE about the economy is finely balanced at present with a wide divergence of views. As Robert Thomas of W. Greenwell pointed out in a talk earlier this month, the letters of the alphabet used to describe the outlook range from "the optimistic V through U and W to the pessimistic L or an I with a point of inflexion."

The differences partly reflect the varying intellectual frameworks of forecasters. The London Business School with a monetarist approach is at the optimistic end of the range—projecting a 2½ per cent rise in Gross Domestic Product next year. In contrast, the neo-Keynesian National Institute expects a fractional decline in output in 1982. This could mean the difference between adult unemployment of 2.7m or 3.1m at the end of 1982 and between a slight rise in consumer spending and no change. It is such differences which no doubt make "floating" voters float.

Output

The present position has become slightly clearer in the past couple of weeks. Total output stopped falling earlier this year in many sectors of industry and the slowdown in destocking led to the appearance of new orders for the first time in nearly a year for many companies. This no doubt accounted for the upsurge of optimism around Easter. But the momentum may not have been sustained. The experience of companies apparently varies considerably though, overall, the Confederation of British Industry suggests that output will remain flat for the rest of the summer. So a V-shaped recovery now looks highly unlikely.

Looking ahead, all is conjecture and even the most partisan of economists must admit doubts. But it is at least possible to identify the main areas of uncertainty—the level of stocks and the movement of personal savings.

First, stocks: the London Business School expects the rundown in stocks to come to an end this year with the start of restocking in 1982. The forecast recovery in overall activity next year is crucially dependent on this change. However, the Business School concedes that given the inherent uncertainties about the timing and amplitude of the stock cycle and recent sharp movements in stocks, there is a larger than usual margin of error. The National Institute's pessimism about output in 1982 largely reflects its expectation of a further, though smaller, fall in stocks.

Spending

Second, savings: both forecasters expect real incomes to be squeezed over the next two years because of the slowdown in wage rises. The London Business School expects that consumers will reduce the high level of personal savings built up in the last couple of years and expand personal borrowing in order to maintain spending in real terms. The National Institute expects a smaller fall in savings and, therefore, a weaker level of spending and of activity. Both views are tenable since forecasting the levels of savings is an extremely hazardous branch of the "uncertain science of economic futurology."

The implications are not exactly reassuring for the Government. The prospects for sustained recovery depend to a large extent on highly uncertain projections about whether destocking ends this year and whether the reduction in savings is small or large. On neither point is past experience a reliable guide and the margins of error are sufficiently wide to encompass both the London Business School and National Institute views.

Snag

The snag is that, even if the movements in stocks and savings are favourable and a productivity improvement is achieved, the London Business School forecasts still imply that GDP will only just recover to its 1979 level by 1984, that unemployment will then be more than double the May 1979 total and that inflation rate will be only just in single figures. Even Saatchi and Saatchi is going to be hard pressed to present this as an attractive electoral package.

Injury cases provide constant puzzle for courts

THE WEEK IN THE COURTS

BY JUSTINIAN

THE ABSENCE of any comprehensive reform of the law relating to compensation for personal injuries, along the lines proposed by the Pearson Commission four years ago, continues to pose problems for the courts when assessing damages to be awarded to injured persons.

The predicament for the courts is to endeavour to ensure that an injured person is neither over-compensated in damages (because he may be additionally in receipt of invalidity benefits from the State) nor under-compensated (because the courts assume that state benefits may be adequate).

Damages

The question before the House of Lords in *Jobling v. Associated Dairies Ltd.** was whether, in assessing damages for personal injury in respect of loss of earnings, account should be taken by the court of a condition of illness supervening after the relevant accident but before the case comes on for trial, where the supervening illness causes a greater degree of incapacity than that caused by the accident.

What happened to Mr Jobling was this. He was employed as a manager of a butcher's shop in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In January 1973, he slipped on a wet surface and fell in the shop premises, injuring his back.

The source of the wetness was the area around the refrigerator which was an old one and constantly gave trouble. Condensation from the refrigerator should have been collected in a tray and drained off by a pipe into a bucket. The trouble was that the tray leaked so that the moisture was not collected in the bucket.

Mr Jobling had repeatedly suggested to his employer that he should supply duckboards for the purpose of reducing the risk of someone slipping. No duckboards or other device to counteract the slipperiness was ever provided.

His employer was not unexpectedly found to be in breach of his duty under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, in that he failed, so far as was reasonably practical, to maintain the floor properly or keep it free from substances likely to cause persons to slip.

In 1975, Mr Jobling's injury to his back was aggravated by a further fall, and by 1976 his condition was such that he was fit only for sedentary work. In that year, however, he was found to be suffering from a disease of the spine which was wholly unconnected with the accident of 1973 but which rendered him wholly unfit for any work.

The sole question before the appeal courts was an item of loss of earnings awarded to him in respect of the period from the date of total incapacity to the date of trial and for the future from the date of trial. This loss the judge had fixed at £6,825 which represented a sum of £13,650 which he divided by two on the basis of a 50 per cent loss of earning capacity.

The Court of Appeal set this figure aside on the basis that Mr Jobling was made totally unfit for work by the supervening illness in 1976, there being thereafter no loss of earnings.

It is well established that courts, in assessing compensation for damage caused to an injured person, must take into account the consequent loss or reduction in earning capacity in the working life of the injured person. In arriving at an estimated figure, the courts necessarily make some allowance or discount for the ordinary vicissitudes of life.

Ordinarily, the courts can make only some rough estimate of these vicissitudes. But, if by the time of the trial facts emerge which reveal a vicissitude of life, then knowledge takes over from estimation.

One of the vicissitudes of life is that an injured person may succumb to a disease, unconnected with the accident for which he is suing for damages, but which shortens his working life. Commonly, the discount for such a possibility might be small, but it is not ignored by the courts.

Where (as in Mr Jobling's case) the vicissitude became a reality, the evidence of its abbreviating effect on his working life was substituted for the estimated abbreviation. Had Mr Jobling not suffered his spinal illness in 1976, his working life would have continued for several more years.

It is also a rule of the courts that a wrongdoer must take his victim as he finds him at the time of the injury inflicted upon him. Thus it had to be conceded that if the spinal injury had been dormant but existing in 1973 it would have had to be taken into account in the actual condition found to exist at the trial.

But Mr Jobling's counsel argued that, since the evidence of the doctors was that the condition was latent and dormant at the date of the injury, its later emergence could not serve to reduce the amount of compensation based on an estimate of working life.

The replacement of estimation by knowledge is an attractive solution, but it has its difficulties. It turns upon other vicissitudes of life, for example, the time taken for a case to come to court.

Had Mr Jobling's spinal illness manifested itself much later, after trial, then he would have retained the extra £6,000 odd awarded by the trial judge but taken away by the appeal courts.

Supposing the supervening illness is the result of an injury caused, not accidentally, but by another wrongdoer? Do the courts then have to draw a distinction between the supervening events that are culpable and those that are non-culpable? Again, should the courts note that public and private schemes cushion the individual against such adverse circumstances and make the appropriate discount in the culpable and not the non-culpable circumstances? The present state of the law is fraught with illogical results.

Lord Wilberforce's implied plea, made during the appeal, is for some rational solution from the legislature. The fact, he says, is that an attempted solution by the courts, according to traditional rules of law, where there are successive causes of an injured person's incapacity in some degree, is no longer possible.

We live no longer in a world where compensation for injuries is safely left to claims in the courts against wrongdoers. We live rather in a mixed world where a man is protected against injury and misfortune by a whole web of rules and dispositions, "*with a number of timid legislative interventions.*"

Compensation by the courts, according to traditional rules, without regard to the whole field of compensatory provisions, must inevitably lead to logical inconsistencies or to over or under-compensation.

Risk

In all industrial injury cases the courts cannot disregard the fact that the injured man's employer will be insured—since 1972 compulsorily insured. In other words, the state has decided to spread the risk.

Likewise, there is no justification for disregarding the fact that Mr Jobling was entitled to sickness and invalidity benefit in respect of his spinal injury, the amount of which may depend on his record of contributions, which in turn may have been affected by his accident.

The plight of the courts is despairingly stated by Lord Wilberforce: "The result of the present case may be lacking in precision and rational justification, but so long as we are content to live in a mansion of so many different architectures, this is inevitable."

**[1980] 3. W.L.R. 704*

Kentucky rider visits Glasgow

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

STEVE CAUTHEN, who has made a point of trying to ride at as many different courses as possible, since joining Barry Hills from the east coast of the U.S., pays his first visit to Hamilton today. The flying trip to the Glasgow track will leave Cauthen having sampled every course in the country except for Yorkshire's Beverley.

It is difficult to imagine the young Kentucky rider failing to notch at least one success this afternoon. His mounts include Karre in the Earl of Angus Selling Stakes and Pick a Straw who goes for the Lord Lyndoch Maiden Stakes.

Karre, a somewhat unfurnished bay son of Pals Passage, has done enough in his two most recent races to suggest that he should beat the four facing him in the Seller

A three lengths fourth of 17 behind Miss Posy in a similar event over six furlongs at Warwick on Epsom Oaks Day, Karre failed by about the same margin when sent back to the minimum trip in the Stonefield Selling Stakes 11 days ago.

I hope to see him settle matters from behind in the hands of Cauthen who, in his usual meticulous and thorough fashion, will have walked the course not only in search of the best ground but also in an effort to ascertain any problems presented by the track.

Pick a Straw, a well bred colt by Thatch out of Piccadilly Lil, has done enough in three races to suggest that the mile and three furlongs of today's modest maiden event, should see him returning to the winner's enclosure.

Pick a Straw is likely to be followed home by Tofique now that Gazaan has been scratched.

Tattersall auctioneers could hardly have anticipated a better Royal Ascot. They were responsible for nine winners there through To-Agori-Mou, Belmont Bay, Atlantic Traveller, Rasa Penang, Teamwork, Russian George, Pender King, Olympic Glory and Donegal Prince.

HAMILTON
3.45—Karre**
4.15—Super Sunset
4.45—Pick a Straw***
5.15—Hay Ride
NOTTINGHAM
2.30—Tallishire Home
3.30—Welsh Blossom
4.00—Seamab
4.30—The Friend
5.00—Walter Mitty
WINDSOR
6.45—Pender Trader
7.35—All Moss
8.05—Plagal
8.35—Fandangle
9.05—Leonidas*

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

6.40-7.55 am Open University (Ultra High Frequency only). 9.52 For Schools, Colleges. 11.25-11.37 You and Me. 1.27 pm Regional News for England (except London). 1.30 Heads and Tails. 1.45 News. 1.55 Wimbledon Tennis Championships. 4.20 Play School (as BBC2 11.00 am). 4.45 The All-New Popeye Show. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Blue Peter.

5.40 News.
5.55 Regional News Magazines.
6.20 Wimbledon Tennis.
7.15 Blake's Seven.
8.10 Panorama: "The PLO — The Road to Respectability."
9.00 News.
9.25 The BBC Television Shakespeare: "Twelfth Night" or "What You Will" starring Alec McCowen, Felicity Kendal, Annette Crosbie and Robert Hardy.
11.33 News Headlines.
11.35 Managing the Micro.

All Regions as BBC1 except as follows:

Cymru/Wales — 1.30-1.45 pm Pila Pala. 5.55 Wales Today. 6.20 Tom and Jerry cartoon. 6.30 Heddiw. 6.50-7.20 Join BBC1 (Wimbledon). 12.00 News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland — 1.25-1.30 pm The Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 12.00 News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—4.18-4.20 pm Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 12.00 News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

England — 5.55-6.20 pm Look East (Norwich); Look North (Leeds); Look North (Newcastle); Look North West (Manchester); Midlands Today (Birmingham); Nationwide (London and South East); Points West (Bristol); South Today (Southampton); Spotlight South West (Plymouth).

BBC 2

11.00 am Play School.
2.01 pm For Schools, Colleges.
2.40 Wimbledon Tennis.
7.10 Plants in Action.
7.35 Mid-Evening News.
7.50 Arthur Negus Enjoys.
8.05 Secret Army.
9.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show.
9.45 Wimbledon highlights.
10.45 Newsnight.

LONDON

9.30 am Schools Programmes. 12.00 Chorlton and the Wheelies. 12.10 pm Rainbow. 12.30 Home and Design. 1.00 News, plus FT Index. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 The Diana Dors Show. 2.00 The Riordans. †2.30 Monday Matinee: "The Wrong Arm of the Law" starring Peter Sellers, Lionel Jeffries and Bernard Cribbins. 4.15 Tweety Pie. 4.20 Now for Nookie. 4.45 Scarf Jack. 5.15 History of the Motor Car.

5.45 News.
6.00 Thames News.
6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 The Krypton Factor.
7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 Sorry, I'm A Stranger Here Myself.
8.30 World in Action.
9.00 Quincy.
10.00 News.
10.30 Hammer House of Horror.
11.30 Great Fights of the Seventies: Esteban De Jesus against Roberto Duran.
12.25 am Close: "Sit Up and Listen" with the Rt. Hon. Norman St. John Stevas.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:

ANGLIA

1.20 pm Anglia News. †2.00 Monday Film Matinee: "They Were Sisters," starring Phyllis Calvert and James Mason. 5.15 University Challenge. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.30 Survival. 10.30 Anglia Reports. 11.00 Speedway. 11.30 Hammer House of Horror. 12.30 am The Other Day.

ATV

1.20 pm ATV News. 2.00 The Afternoon Thriller: "The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun," starring Samantha Eggar and Oliver Reed. 3.45 Our Little Town. 5.15 Father Dear Father. 6.00 ATV Today. 10.30 Left, Right and Centre. 11.10 ATV News. 11.15 Hammer House of Horror. 12.15 am Something Different.

BORDER

1.20 pm Border News. 2.30 Monday Matinee: "The Sandwich Man," starring Dora Bryan. 5.15 Survival. 6.00 Lookaround Monday. 6.15 Try for Ten. 6.45 The Sound of . . . the Tartan Lads. 11.30 Border News Summary.

CHANNEL

1.20 pm Channel Lunchtime News, What's On Where, and Weather. 2.00 The Monday Matinee: "The Taming Of The Shrew." 5.15 Happy Days. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.20 Cartoon Time. 6.30 Mork and Mindy. 10.28 Channel Late News. 11.30 News and Weather in French.

GRAMPIAN

9.45 am First Thing. 9.50 Tarzan. 10.46 Al Oeming—Man of the North. News. †2.00 Monday Matinee: "The Sound Barrier" starring Ralph Richardson. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.35 Out of Town. 11.30 North Headlines. 11.35 Cracker Golf.

GRANADA

11.50 am The Bubblies. 1.20 pm Granada Reports. †2.00 Monday Matinee: Richard Todd in "Yangtse Incident." 4.05 The Canterbury Road Cartoon. 5.15 Joe 90. 6.00 Granada Reports. 11.30 Today Tonight. 11.40 Cities.

HTV

1.20 pm HTV News. 2.00 Easter Day Horse Parade. †2.15 Monday Matinee: "Guns Of Darkness," starring Leslie Caron and David Niven. 5.15 The Clifton House Mystery. 6.00 Report West. 10.28 HTV News. 11.30 Paris By Night.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV West except: 10.05-10.20 am Cymru A'r Mor. 11.05-11.20 Mwy Neu Lai. 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 1.30-2.00 Hamdden. 4.45-5.15 Ser. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.25-7.00 Report Wales. 8.30-9.00 Yr Wythnos. 10.30 World in Action. 11.00-11.30 The Brains International Matchplay Darts Tournament.

SCOTTISH

9.55 am Alphabet. 10.20 Adventure Time. 10.30 England Their England. 10.55 The Lost Islands. 11.20 Pro-Celebrity Snooker. 1.20 pm News and Road and Weather. 2.00 The First of a Few. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 Scotland Today/Crimedesk. 6.30 Take the High Road. 10.30 The Communicators. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 Hammer House of Horror.

SOUTHERN

1.20 pm Southern News. 2.00 Houseparty. †2.25 "The Interrupted Journey," starring Richard Todd. 3.45 Life Begins at Forty. 5.15 Happy Days. 6.00 Day By Day, including Southsport. 11.30 WKRP in Cincinnati.

TYNE TEES

9.20 am The Good Word. 9.25 North-East News. 1.20 pm North-East News and Lookaround. 2.00 Monday Matinee: "Connecting Rooms," starring Michael Redgrave and Bette Davis. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 North-East News. 6.02 Sale of the Century. 6.30 Northern Life with Tom Coyne. 10.30 North-East News. 10.32 Northern Report. 11.00 Tandarra. 12.00 Christianity Is . . . So Weak.

ULSTER

1.20 pm Lunchtime. 2.30 Monday Matinee: "Sea Fury," starring Stanley Baker, Victor McLaglen and Lucianna Paluzzi. 4.13 Ulster News. 4.45 Call It Macaroni. 5.15 Joe 90. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30 Here's Boomer. 10.29 Ulster Weather. 10.30 The Irish Factor. 11.00 Golfing Greats (Lee Trevino). 11.30 Bedtime.

WESTWARD

1.20 pm Westward News Headlines. 2.00 The Monday Matinee: "The Taming Of The Shrew," starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. 4.12 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 5.15 Happy Days. 6.00 Westward Diary. 10.29 Westward Late News. 11.30 Faith For Life. 11.35 West Country Weather and Shipping Forecast.

YORKSHIRE

1.20 pm Calendar News. †2.00 Monday Matinee: "Jigsaw," starring Jack Warner, Ronald Lewis and John Le Mesurier. 4.00 Here Here. 5.15 Sha Na Na. 6.00 Calendar (Emley Moor and Belmont editions). 6.35 Happy Days. 10.30 The Sweeney. 11.30 The Eruption of Mount St Helens.

Radio Wavelengths

1 1053kHz/285m
1089kHz/275m

2 693kHz/433m
909kHz/330m
& 88-91vhf stereo

3 1215kHz/247m
& 90-92.5vhf stereo

4 200kHz/1500m
& 92.95vhf

BBC Radio London:
1458kHz, 206m & 94.9vhf

Capital Radio:
1548kHz, 194m & 95.8vhf

London Broadcasting:
1151kHz, 261m & 97.3vhf

(S) Stereophonic broadcast
‡ Medium Wave

RADIO 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis. 4.30 Peter Powell. 7.00 Stayin' Alive with Andy Peebles. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00-12.00 John Peel (S).

VHF Radios 1 and 2—5.00 am With Radio 2. 2.00 pm The Ed Stewart Show (S). 4.00 David Hamilton (S). 5.45 News; Sport. 6.00 David Symonds with Much More Music (S). 8.00 With Radio 2. 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

RADIO 2

5.00 am Ray Moore (S). 7.30 Terry Wogan (S). 10.00 Jimmy Young (S). 12.00 John Dunn (S). 2.00 pm Wimbledon '81. 7.00 David Symonds with Much More Music (S) (Joins VHF). 8.00 Folk on 2 (S). 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz (S). 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 Town and Country Quiz. 10.30 Star Sound. 11.00 Peter Clayton with Round Midnight. 1.00 am Truckers' Hour (S). 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music (S).

RADIO 3

6.56 am Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert (S). 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued). 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Gaetano Donizetti (S). 10.00 Coull String Quartet (S). 11.35 Chopin Concerto, Prokofiev Symphony (S). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert (S). 2.00 Matinee Musicale (S). 3.00 Pianists in Profile: Artur Rubenstein (S). 4.00 New Records (S). 4.55 News. 5.00 Mainly For Pleasure (S). 7.00 Crowded Hours: Alastair Hetherington in conversation with Lady Plowden. 7.45 College Concert 1980-81: part 1 (S). 8.35 Interval Reading. 8.45 College Concert: part 2. 9.20 Georg Philipp Telemann (S). 10.30 Jazz in Britain (S). 11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 Cry: Giles Swayne on record (S).

RADIO 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Week. 6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 Today, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day; 7.00, 8.00 Today's News; 7.30, 8.30 News Headlines; 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 The Week on 4. 8.45 Glyn Worsnip explores the BBC Sound Archives. 9.00 News. 9.05 Start the Week with Richard Baker. 10.00 News. 10.02 Money Box. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story. 11.00 News. 11.05 Kings and Suchlike. 11.50 Poetry Please! 12.00 News. 12.02 pm You and Yours. 12.27 Lord Peter Wimsey. 12.55 Weather; programme news. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Afternoon Theatre (S). 4.35 He Spoke in Smiles: A profile of Sir Stanford Raffles, founder of Singapore. 4.45 Story Time. 5.00 PM: News magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; programme news. 6.00 News. 6.30 The News Quiz (S). 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Start the Week with Richard Baker. 8.00 The Monday Play (S). 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.30 Science Now. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News.

BBC Radio London

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.30 Rush Hour. 9.03 Morning Star. 10.03 The Claire Rayner Telephone Programme. 12.30 pm London News Desk. 12.40 The Total Music Show. 2.30 Tony Blackburn. 5.00 News. 5.15 Music on the Move. 6.33 Inside London. 7.03 Black Londoners. 8.00 As Radio 1. 10.00 Question Time from the House of Commons. 11.00-5.00 am Join Radio 2.

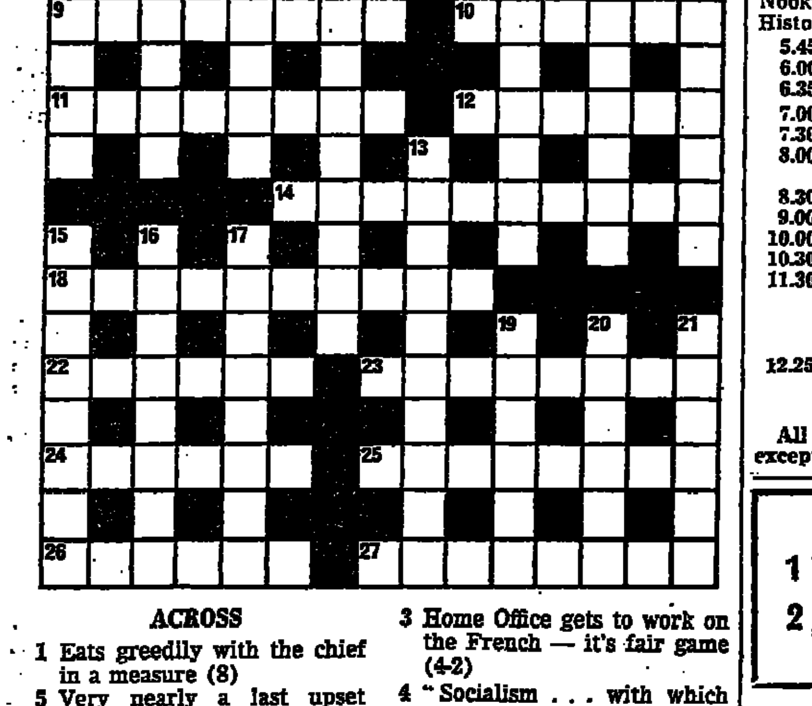
London Broadcasting

6.00 am AM—Bob Holness and Douglas Cameron. 10.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 LBC Reports. 7.00 pm London Life. 9.00 Mike Dickin's Nightline. 12.00 LBC Reports Midnight. 1.00 am Night Extra. 3.30 LBC Cinema. 4.00 After Eight Sunday (repeat). 5.00 Morning Music.

Capital Radio

7.00 am Mike Smith's Breakfast Show. 10.00 Michael Aspel. 12.30 pm Mike Allen. 1.00 First Report. 1.10 Mike Allen (continued). 3.00 Roger Scott. 6.30 London Tonight. 8.30 Alan Freeman (rock music). 10.30 John Sach's Late Show. 12.00 Midnight Special.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,606



ACROSS

1 Eats greedily with the chief in a measure (8)
5 Very nearly a last upset about the doctor (6)
9 Rot, cheri. It's just a declamation (8)
10 How's that for a call for sympathy? (6)
11 Old boys start what cannot be up to date (8)
12 Almost a healthy young girl, but not adaptable (6)
14 Behave irresponsibly like Feste (3, 3, 4)
18 Presage as coming events (10)
22 Land on fire (6)
23 Porcelain container for the early bird (3-5)
24 Mislead a forensic lord in the river (6)
25 Genuine possibly if on a deb (4, 4)
26 Settle down evidently in honest leisure (6)
27 How we try to get a word in with the loquacious (8)

DOWN

1 Cause distress in school (6)
2 Lubricant with a country sound (6)
3 Home Office gets to work on the French — it's fair game (4-2)
4 "Socialism . . . with which the priest consecrates the heartburnings of the ——" (Marx) (10)
6 Odd spiel makes one unevenly balanced (3-5)
7 Surplus finished when Canis Lupus comes up (8)
8 Sneak in the captain's cabin (4-4)
13 There is great influence in the citadel (10)
15 Intermittently like the poor but keen horseman (3, 3, 2)
16 Agreements that are sometimes indefinite (8)
17 The immortal flower (8)
19 "As pure as snow, thou shalt not —— calumny" (Hamlet) (6)
20 The jewel in one is a sign (6)
21 Part of a jacket, or of Fair-isle even (6)

The solution to last Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners next Saturday.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM. S 836 3161. CC 240 5258. NUREYEV FESTIVAL. From Tomor to July 11. Evgs 7.30. Mat July 4 & 11 at 2.00. With The Boston Ballet SWAN LAKE. Nureyev dances every performance.

COVENT GARDEN. 240 1066. S (Gardencharge CC 836 6903). 65 amphiseats avail for all perfs from 10 am on the day of perf. THE ROYAL OPERA. Tomor at 7.30. Fri at 7.30 Peter Grimes. Wed & Sat at 7.30 Luisa Miller. Thurs at 7.30 Madama Butterfly.

GLYNDEBOURNE Festival Opera with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Until August 11. Wed & Fri 5.55, Sun 4.55 A Midsummer Night's Dream. Thurs & Sat 5.55 Il barbiere di Siviglia. SOLD OUT Tel for possible returns. BOX OFFICE 0273 812411/813424.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1. Tel. 01-837 1672/1673/3856. Credit Cards 10 am to 6 pm 01-278 0871. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061. Until Sat. Evs 7.30. Sat Mats 2.30. TWYLA THARP DANCE COMPANY. Tonight Tomor & Sat (mat & eve) The Rags Suite Assorted Quartets/Short Stories/Eight Jelly Rolls. Wed & Thur Sue's Leg/Uncle Edgar Dyed His Hair Red/The Fugue/Baker's Dozen. Fri. Brahms' Paganini/Uncle Edgar Dyed His Hair Red/The Fugue/Ocean's Motion. Tkts £2 to £9. July 6 to 11 BALLET STARS OF AMERICA.

THEATRES

ADELPHI. S. CC. 01-836 7611. Evs. 7.30. Sat. 4.0 & 7.45. Mats. Thurs. 3.00. TON BRITTON JILL MARTIN. PETER BAYLISS in MY FAIR LADY. For group bookings telephone 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061. Anna Neagle returns July 7. Now booking through to October.

ALBERY. 01-836 3878. CC bkgs. 379 6565. Grp bkgs 836 3962 or 379 6061. Evs. 8.00. Thurs. Mat 3.00. Stalls from £2.90. Sat. 5.00 and 8.15. Sian Phillips. Denis Lawson (Most Promising New Actor DRAMA AWARD 1980). Rogers' and Hart's musical PAL JOEY.

ALDWYCH. S 836 6404. CC 379 6233. (10-6 Sats 10-4). Info. 836 5332. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in new production of TROILUS AND CRESSIDA directed by Terry Hands. Seats avail. for reduced price previews from Wed 1 July. Booking also open for THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (opening 14 July) and AS YOU LIKE IT (opening 21 July) Prestel 22023. Group Sales 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse/Fortune/Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS. S. CC. 836 1171. Evs. 8.00. Tues. Mat. 3.00. Sat. 5.30 and 8.30. RECORD BREAKING RUN of J. B. PRIESTLEY'S Mystery Play DANGEROUS CORNER. Acclaimed revival of Priestley's most popular play. Seat prices from £3.00.

APOLLO. Shaftesbury Ave. CC 437 2663. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 6.0 & 8.45. CLIVE JAMES. PAMELA STEPHENSON. RUSSELL DAVIS in CHARLES CHARMINGS CHALLENGES. An epic with 1,000 voices.

APOLLO VICTORIA. Tel. 01-834 2819/01-828 6491. CC 10.00 am-7.30 pm. LAST 2 PERFS. TONIGHT & TOMORROW at 8.00 pm. SAMMY DAVIS JNR. Tickets £17.50. £15.50. £12.50. £10.50. £7.50.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE. Tel 01-836 7040/6056. Red Price Prevs. July 7, 8, 9, 10 & 13 at 8.00. ALL SEATS £3.00. Opens Tues 14th July at 7.30 pm. Subs Evgs 8.00 pm. Late Show Fri 10.30 pm. Sat 6.00 & 9.00. The Entire American Company Direct from Broadway in ONE MO' TIME! THE NEW ORLEANS MUSICAL ONE MO' TIME IS A GOOD TIME!

CHICHESTER Festival Theatre. 0243 781312. Season sponsored by Martini & Rossi Ltd. CLAIRE BLOOM in THE CHERRY ORCHARD. Ton't. at 7.0.

COMEDY THEATRE. S. CC. 01-930 2578. Panton St. W1. The Award Winning Musical Hit BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 5.30 & 8.30.

CRITERION. S 930 3216. CC 379 6565. Group bkgs 836 3962. Evs 8.0. Sat 6.0. 8.45. RUN EXTENDED TO 11 JULY. CARL CHASE in HANK WILLIAMS THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE. Liverpool Everyman prod. Dir. by Ken Campbell & Terry Canning.

CRITERION. Now booking Dario Fo's farce CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY! LOW PRICE PREVIEWS. ALL SEATS £2.90. 15 to 24 July.

DRURY LANE. Theatre Royal. Tel. 836 8108. THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS. Evs. Mon. to Thur. 8.0. Fri. and Sat. 5.30 and 8.30. Group sales Box Office 379 6061.

DUCHESS. CC 01-836 8243. Evenings 8.0. Mats. Wed. 3.00. Sats. 5.30 and 8.30. FRANCES MATTHEWS GEORGE SEWELL and LYNETTE DAVIES in THE BUSINESS OF MURDER.

DUKE OF YORK'S. S 836 5122. Credit Cards 379 6565, 930 0731. (4 lines) (9.30-6.00 Sats. 9.30-4.30). Group bookings 836 3962. 379 6061. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 5.0 and 8.30. Stalls and Circle from £2.90. FRANCES DE LA TOUR. ACTRESS OF THE YEAR Swet Awards '80. BEST ACTRESS New Standard Drama Awards '80. BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS 1980 Drama Awards and DAVID DE KEYSER BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR Drama Awards of the Year 1980 in TOM KEMPINSKI'S DUET FOR ONE. LAST FOUR WEEKS.

FORTUNE Russell St. WC2. S. Box Office and Credit Cards 01-836 2238. To Celebrate The Royal Wedding The Fortune Theatre presents THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in John Barton's THE HOLLOW CROWN an entertainment of words/music about Kingship. All week Evgs 8.0 (Wed 7.0). Fri/Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Cast varies. This week—Alan Howard, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Norman Rodway and Martin Best. In rep with PLEASURE AND REPENTANCE (from 13 July). Big reductions if you book for both entertainments.

GARRICK. S. CC. Box Off. Tel. 836 4061. MIKE LEIGH'S SMASH HIT GOOSE PIMPLES. MON.-SAT. 8.00 pm. SAT. MAT. 3.00 pm. Group sales 379 6061.

GLOBE THEATRE. 01-437 1592. ALEC McCOWEN in ST. MARK'S GOSPEL. July 12 for 4 weeks only. Book now.

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Architecture

Competition and standards

by COLIN AMERY

First the good news: Michael Heseltine has decided to use his reserve powers under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1971 to insist on immediate repairs being carried out on the 18th century Barlaston Hall in Staffordshire that belongs to the Wedgwood company. The Georgian Group has carried out a sustained campaign to save this house which the pottery company have been equally determined to neglect. The house stands on the edge of the Wedgwood estate and has been empty and near derelict for a long time. It is listed as a Grade I building and was designed by Sir Robert Taylor in 1756 with a fine bow front on the garden side. The interior, despite all the wanton neglect, still has good plaster work and a fine staircase that can be restored.

It is only the sustained campaigning of the conservation groups and the Historic Buildings Council that has finally persuaded the Minister to use his powers for the first time. The Wedgwood company will now have to find £500,000 for repairs, despite the fact that a public inquiry on a new application to demolish the Hall has yet to be heard. Mr Heseltine has spiked the guns of the inquiry, and owners of other listed buildings in need of repair should watch out for the Minister for the Environment hovering at the gates.

Second is also good news. Michael Heseltine has been saying for a long time that he wants to give architects more freedom to design good buildings. His own powers are largely negative—it is easier for him to stop something than it is for him to encourage a fine new building. For a long time architects have thought that competitions are the answer and the Government, through the Property Services Agency, is trying to organise as many open competitions for new Government buildings as possible.

Architects will be pleased to learn that the newest competition is on a large scale. It is for an area telephone office for British Telecom worth £4½m to be built in Bournemouth. The recently announced competition for a military library to be built at Shrivenham in Wiltshire has encouraged over 300 entries, and more than 400 architects want to design prison officer housing and social facilities in Yorkshire. There are at least eight competitions for housing in the new towns as well as one for a coast guard station.

The problem area is the private sector. What is the point of a competition for a property developer? Many people feel that important urban sites, like Coin Street, or many of the Thamesside sites in London deserve the best architecture that can be devised and they should be the subject of competitions. The Secretary of State and his shirt-sleeved advisers have been searching for powers that will enable the architectural climate to be much freer.

However much he would like to cut controls the Minister has to consider the effect on the unemployment figures of the abolition of planners and other stumbling blocks in local bureaucracies. The other day he came up with something called "wider use of Special Development Orders" — a discussion paper. What does this mean to ordinary, freedom loving mortals like you and me?

The Minister is suggesting that the powers he has to allow special forms of development (usually new towns or atomic power stations) exemption from the normal planning processes should be extended to include more categories of development. One new category would be a new deal for developers.

Barlaston Hall

Developers who are prepared to hold open competitions for their new buildings, to find the best architects, would get full planning permission at high speed on sites of special significance. Where land is already zoned for industry or housing on a local plan planning permission could be granted automatically with a Special Development Order.

On residential buildings Mr Heseltine has sufficient confidence in the ability of "market forces to produce high standards in every respect"—that he would give instant planning permission for high quality estates. Alas, the power of market forces usually works in exactly the opposite direction.

The Minister is anxious to promote a debate and he deserves some sympathy. I can just imagine him sitting up on the top of those hideous Department of the Environment towers thinking that all the planning legislation in the world has failed to produce good architecture, fine town centres and all the benefits of the built welfare state—why not try to slice through the endless rules and regulations with the Ministerial scissors and change the climate to one of free competition and speedy decision making?

His enthusiasm is admirable and less regulation should help designers who claim that 80 per cent of their time is spent dealing with bureaucracy and tiresome restrictions. It is hard, however, to see how instant planning permission in exchange for architectural competitions can actually work without the third element. That is the element of aesthetic choice. I wouldn't trust Parliament to make aesthetic judgments and I certainly wouldn't trust civil servants or ministers. Committees of Taste are a contradiction in terms—so who is to make the choices?

An important architectural competition for a building on a major site is in the offing—no one is saying exactly which site it is and I can only reveal that it is not by the Thames. Wherever it is (expect an announcement in two weeks) the crucial thing is the quality of the assessors. They must be few and fearless and, above all, they must not all be architects.

Cottesloe

One Woman Plays

by MICHAEL COVENEY

The introduction to the British theatre of the work of the Italian anarchic clown Dario Fo has been a large feather in the fringe's cap. Following the example of the Half Moon and Belt and Braces, the National continues the good work with these four ebullient feminist pieces written by Fo in collaboration with his actress wife Franca Rame. Olwen Wymark has adapted three of them, using a translation by Margaret Kunzle. The fourth, a new version of *Medea*, is translated by Stuart Hood.

The woman in all four pieces is soliloquising under pressure. With the exception of *Medea*, the plays take ordinary domestic and sexual situations and develop, through farcical flights of fancy and a whirlwind of explicit language, a robust and resonant series of stage images. Nothing less than a virtuoso performance is demanded, and Yvonne Bryceland supplies it in full measure. Her expressive range, accustomed to dealing with disaster and disappointment, is fully alive to the ecstasy that occasionally bursts through the agony.

In *Waking Up*, the sleeping factory worker dreams of drills and rivets before bounding out of bed to deal with the baby and prepare for another day. Husband sleeps on. Bryceland is less at home with zany confusion than with impassioned confession: covering baby's bottom with grated cheese and spraying her armpit with radiator paint are deeds of singular unfunniness. Perhaps Michael Bogdanov, the director, should encourage a less frenetic opening pace.

Just as doubts about the evening begin to hover, the stage of grey doors and carpet (designed by Sue Jenkinson and John Bury) is cleared for the riveting centre-piece. For *The Same Old Story* Bryceland, in a black judo suit, straddles a simple platform and acts out the parallel humiliations of automatic sexual congress and its Italian Catholic corollary of perfunctory childbirth. Switching sex, position and erotic function with alarming rapidity, the actress suggests in an extraordinary manner the sensual freedom that, in this case, is denied by customs and social expectations. The play ends with a long, moral and very funny fable about a girl and her foul-mouthed doll surviving marriage to the big bad wolf in the shape of an electronics engineer.

In the printed text (just published by Pluto Press at £1.95) *A Woman Alone* comes second. I have a feeling that the show would be improved by reverting to that order and cutting *Medea*. The latter play adds nothing beyond providing a mythical resonance for the feminist argument that is hardly needed. It is a big leap for an audience to make after the specific, contemporary, delightfully off-beat picture of the woman (in *A Woman Alone*) now attired in a red silk negligée, ironing and chattering to a neighbour while various menfolk — husband, husband's creditor, lover and police — batter at the front door.

Her brother-in-law, a cripple encased in plaster but with one good groping hand still in operation, is another opponent in the arena. There is a peeping Tom across the way and, finally, another single hand, that of her jilted lover, sliding through a gap in the door. The woman has no alternative but to blast her way out. Is this the new woman Medea seems to be summoning in the coda?

Sadler's Wells

Sue's Leg by CLEMENT CRISP

The two new pieces in Twyla Tharp's third programme on Thursdayyy — which repeats on July 1 and 2, and insists on being seen—are rooted in the piano music, the jazz and swing and dances of the '20s and '30s. *Sue's Leg* uses Fats Waller recordings; *Baker's Dozen* is set to four compositions by Willie "The Lion" Smith, splendidly played by Susan Tomes. Both works are a brilliant justification of Tharp's sense of social history, and her ability to extract from the past a theatrical essence which permeates the dance and gives it a new and abidingly joyous life.

Sue's Leg considers how jazz musicians play with a tune, embroider it, extend or elide its melody in improvisation. In just this way Tharp transforms the dance. She plays with time—there are moments of freeze-frame stillness contrasted with dizzying accelerations of tempo—plays with a dance phrase, elaborates a movement and sends her dancers off into cadenzas of steps which yet retain their roots in an over-all rhythmic pulse.

So Christina Uchida zips and struts through *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Tharp's own solo) with delicious pugnacity and quicksilver feet; so Tom Rawe, Jennifer Way and John Malashock drift and flash as *Tea For Two* unfurls its arabesques of pianistic invention. These wonderful dancers, and their no less wonderful companions, look chic in their satin and wool outfits, by Santo Loquasto, and their elegance is of today, for the costumes are adaptations of rehearsal dress, daytime clothes.

Herein seems a suggestion of what Tharp has achieved: we like these dancers because they are so very much the young of today, but also because Tharp, in saluting our nostalgia for the jazz age, makes it still seem vivid, in the way that films like *Paper Moon* or *The Last Picture Show* have done.

Baker's Dozen is "about" the world of F. Scott Fitzgerald, about wild and happy days when the fun was fast and frantic (as *Baker's Dozen* certainly is) but also curiously innocent. It is the *Dances at a Gathering* of the ragtime age, a tango-tea for 12 white-clad dancers who pass before us in strong lateral strokes of movement, unashamedly happy, full of jokes, enjoying the fun of partnering, playing the fool.

It is timed, as is everything with Twyla Tharp, to a hair's breadth, and danced with consummate skill: I doubt if London will see a more acutely trained and more gifted ensemble this year.

Earl's Court

Bob Dylan by ANTONY THORNCROFT

If Elvis Presley was the body of the music of the past generation, Bob Dylan is the brain. When historians come to categorise the period and observe two of its main features —the growth of a distinct youth culture and a breakdown in traditional authority — they could, with some justification, dub it the Age of Dylan. For Bob Dylan supplied the words for the incoherent feelings of the young and wrapped them up in the new medium of communication — rock music.

And then, a couple of years ago, Bob Dylan became a born-again Christian. The reaction of many critics and many fans was disgraceful: if only his new direction has been more romantic, more socially unacceptable, like becoming a herion addict or financing a few terrorist murders. So there was talk of mass disaffection and empty seats at the London concerts Dylan is currently giving.

Well, on Saturday night, vast Earl's Court was packed, the audience was constantly enthusiastic, and the end brought the kind of ovation and naked hero worship that is rarely seen. And Dylan achieved this by staying true to his new beliefs. After two and a-half hours the magnetism of the man and his overwhelming self-confidence had stilled those who had come to have their hopes of a Dylan sell-out justified.

He looks so right, shielded by large black glasses and swathed in a blousson, and although the stage was crowded with four black girl gospel singers, and his band, the eyes were only for the shock-haired man with the compelling voice and the punchy manner. Dylan live is quite different from his records, much more dynamic and immediate. The songs always sound newly minted. "Maggie's Farm" was raced through at a snarl, the melody lost to the dramatic delivery; "Just like a woman" was equally mannered, the lyrics spat out, the tune left to look after itself.

From the opening "Serve somebody" it was obvious Dylan was going to please himself and perform the songs that now interest him — from his first religious album "Slow train coming" and a new album yet to be released. But around half the performance is given over to the old, with the audience shrieking as they recognised the introductory chords to "Like a rolling stone," "Mr Tambourine Man," "Girl from the North Country," and more. But the strength and power of the news songs, the hypnotic drum beat, the immediacy of the choruses, came across: once again God has the good tunes.

There were irritations—the chorus was given time best devoted to the old masterpieces. There were scores of some of the best songs of the past generation left aside, and when Dylan appeared alone in the encore with guitar and harp to perform "Baby Blue" you realised just how much you were missing them. But then, finally, "Knocking on heaven's door," a song both Dylan and the audience could completely agree on, and the end of one of the most remarkable concerts for some time. Dylan is a commanding performer, a riveting personality — that is more than enough compensation for the unsung glories of his past.

King's Head

Wonderland by B. A. YOUNG

Wonderland is a mini-musical with no ambition to be anything more. It's set in Hollywood, in the Wonderland Studios, and there are three mini-plots. Tony Royle, a young English actor, marries Jill, a young American actress, then goes back to England to fight in the war (in the War Office) and Jill moves on to the ambitious producer Hank Merrin. Abe Youngstein, keen to be a director, goes to England to direct and is caught in the blitz of 1940; moving his unit to Pearl Harbour, he is caught in the first Japanese raid. Ernst von Kurwitz, German-Jewish director, is dropped into Europe as an agent, returns to compete with Hank as the new president of Wonderland, and finishes happily as vice-president.

These little stories are given the slenderest possible treatment, in which a single line can stand for a tremendous event. Occasionally there is a hint of satire: "You can't make a good movie," for instance, "unless your heart's in it, and the same goes for parachute jumps." Mini-songs decorate the production; they have music by Dave Brown (who sits at a piano to accompany them) and lyrics by the author, William Fairchild. The music is roughly in the style of *Salad Days*, and the words suggest wholesale dependence on a rhyming dictionary, though the rhymes are mostly simple monosyllables or terminations like ation. There is some mini-choreography by Tudor Davies.

I think the simplicity of the show must be intentional on the writers' part. Mr Fairchild wrote a play about the boyhood of Nelson some time ago that I enjoyed, and the characters in that were fully rounded and the situations important. But it's conceivable that he may have said to himself that this was to be done on a tiny stage at the back of a pub, and what was needed was something capable of instant appreciation, with no more depth of feeling than a popular song. There may be something to be said for such a viewpoint, though it's not one that I share.

The company have little acting to do, for the characters are no more than stereotypes. They establish their function well enough, and sing their songs in tune. Ray Lonnen's Hank is an archetypal producer; Don Fellows and Sandra Dickinson are archetypal Jewish comics; David Firth and Christina Matthews are the romantic pair; Olivier Pierre as von Kurwitz is a send-up of all pre-war German directors. I didn't get a lot of enjoyment out of the evening myself, but for those who relish such naive simplicity, there's a nice clear draught. *Salad Days*, after all, ran for six years or so.

Truffaut talking

by NIGEL ANDREWS

François Truffaut cranks out films at such a prolific rate that it sometimes seems as if this non-stop movie-maker *is* the French film industry. While financial and other stresses drive his former colleagues of the French New Wave into film careers that are either rebarbatively esoteric (Godard) or regrettably intermittent (Resnais, Rivette), Truffaut keeps turning out a movie a year with the cheerful magic of a conjuror unhatting rabbits.

His latest, *The Last Metro*, has just opened in London after doing brisk business in France and America. Once again it shows Truffaut marshalling all the top brass of modern French cinema—stars Gerard Depardieu and Catherine Deneuve, photographer Nestor Almendros—in a stylish *roman*, set in a repertory theatre company in occupied Paris during the war, that is sometimes like Ernst Lubitsch's classic comedy *To Be or Not To Be* given straight-faced "dramatic" treatment.

"Lubitsch's film, it's true, is the only other film I know set among theatre actors during the war," Truffaut told me when we met and talked in his Savoy Hotel suite. "But that's really a broad farce, where my film is more a *comédie dramatique* where plausibility is all-important and where I try to create a feel of the times.

"I've always wanted to make a film about this period, because I lived through it as a child. I remember the black-outs, the fear, the mystery; the way everything seemed to be lived at night, in the dark. I tried to capture this with Nestor Almendros's photography; low light and shadowy interiors, a sense of claustrophobia."

Although he shot the performance scenes of *The Last Metro* on a real Paris stage — the Theatre St George — Truffaut couldn't film the backstage sequences inside the theatre's narrow corridors and too-small dressing-rooms. "So we used a chocolate factory near Porte de Clichy," he says, "and decorated it with posters of the period and all the theatrical paraphernalia."

Set in and around this honeycomb of backstage life, *The Last Metro* is dotted with little suspense vignettes that testify to the fact that Truffaut's chief claim to fame outside the films he has directed — and his brief skirmish with acting stardom in *Close Encounters* — is the classic book of interview-criticism he made with Alfred Hitchcock.

"Whenever you want to disturb or 'menace' an audience" says Truffaut, "you go to Hitchcock for the answer. He always did it best. For me the two big film-makers have always been Renoir and Hitchcock, and it's fascinating working with these two giant figures always in the background of one's mind. Because they're complete opposites. Renoir allowed total freedom to his actors—they were his creative partners, they helped shape the film. But Hitchcock built his films in his mind before the camera rolled, his actors had to become part of the film's design. So in my work I'm very conscious of trying to resolve these extremes—to have living characters and yet at the same time very strong, forceful plot situations."

Judging by his popular appeal and his ability to enchant widely varying audiences, Truffaut gets the mixture right more often than not. Ever since the New Wave heyday of *Les Quatre Cent Coups* and *Jules et Jim*, Truffaut has been a movie entertainer as well as a movie experimenter—and for some critics he has moved a little too far since the 60s in the first direction.

"Sometimes I'm attacked," he says, "for directing films that are too bland, too 'commercial,' the kind of films *I* attacked when I was a critic. But, you know, when I started out as a critic, on *Cahiers du Cinema*, the films I wrote about and enthused about were not the 'difficult' ones. They were films made for a popular audience that were also intelligent, visually exciting — those of Max Ophuls, or Jacques Tati. It isn't important what the screenplay is but the ideas that go into filming it. What I hated in the 1950s were films that took great novels — *La Chartreuse de Parme, Le Rouge et Le Noir* —and made banal, simplified films, films with no visual imagination."

As French cinema enters the 1980s, 20 years after the New Wave, where, I asked Truffaut, are the bright hopes for its future? The horizon seems barer now than for almost a generation.

"The problem is mainly television," says Truffaut. "People just do not go out to cinemas so much, so there is little investment, little encouragement for feature films. And this is true not just in France but in other countries. There are 20 or 30 first films made every year in France. But because they are not commercial, they cannot all get distribution. Also there is the problem that America is in a big period of international films again now—it's like Hollywood before the war. With directors like Lucas and Spielberg, they have reconquered Australia, they have reconquered Japan, they have reconquered Europe."

Sometimes in the last two decades it has seemed as if Truffaut is the only French director with the productivity and international leverage to keep his native film industry going at all, in terms of exportability and global prestige. *The Last Metro* follows films like *Day For Night*, *The Story of Adele H* and the popular Antoine Doinel series into the international market. On top of these, a new Trauffaut film is already near completion, *One Man Next Door* starring Gerard Depardieu.

"I like the excitement of working," smiles Truffaut "and I'm always a little ahead of myself in terms of projects planned. I like to keep working as long as I have health. I know so many film-makers who have had to stop working through ill-health, and they always regret they did not make this or that film, realise this or that project.

"In *the Last Metro* there's a scene where the young *ingénue* actress, played by Sabine Haudepin, is reprimanded by the producer for doing too much work outside the theatre — films, advertisements and so on. She's always late, he says, and she's taking work from people who need it. She answers back very strongly, a little emotionally, that she's determined to seize all the chances for her career she has while she's still young. Well, I know actresses of my own day who had exactly that attitude and they succeeded because of it — Jeanne Moreau, Isabelle Adjani, for example.

"You have to have the energy that comes from being in love with what you do. Since I was a child I loved cinema—popular cinema—I saw many, many films. Now when people speak of my own work, it's 'too many' again—'he makes films too easily'. But I believe in cinema as a popular art. I do not make revolutionary films, I make them for the audience at large. I make the films I would like to see myself. If a director made a film like *Day for Night* or *Stolen Kisses*, I would go and see it again and again, because they give me pleasure. Unfortunately I made them myself, so once they're done and completed, I leave them and move on to something else!"

'Quatermaine's Terms' at Queen's

Quartermaine's Terms, Simon Gray's new play starring Edward Fox and Prunella Scales, originally due to open the day before the Royal Wedding, will now open two days later on July 30 at the Queen's Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue.

BBC TV arts appointment

Mr Richard Somerset-Vard, 39, is taking over in August as head of BBC TV music and arts from Humphrey Burton, who is returning to production.

TENNIS BY JOHN BARRETT

Borg and Evert Lloyd likely to win

THE EVIDENCE of Wimbledon's first week has emphasised the gulf that divides the handful of superstars from their immediate challengers.

While nine of the original 15 men's seeds (Gene Mayer withdrew injured before the start) sank in the choppy waters of the hectic early rounds, those impregnable battleships of the men's game, Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, sailed safely through to the calmer waters of the second week—albeit, in McEnroe's case with damage above decks from the fines imposed for ungentlemanly behaviour.

McEnroe was on a tight rein again on Saturday in beating Stan Smith, the 1972 champion, 7—5, 3—6, 6—1, 6—2, but at the end was looking awesomely sharp.

In scoring his 18th consecutive win against his friend and practice partner, Vitas Gerulaitis, Borg was always able to raise his game when it mattered. The 7—6, 7—5, 7—6 margin was not as close as it looked in a match which never threatened to equal their epic 1977 semi-final.

Connors grunted his way to a 6—3, 6—2, 6—4 win against Wojtek Fibak to underline his basic class as a shot maker. Few men can hit so hard so low over the net so often.

In 12 sets played, Connors has lost an average of only 3.25 games in each. Borg's average is 3.6. McEnroe's from 14 sets is 3.78.

In tomorrow's quarter-finals Borg plays Peter McNamara, who, with Rod Frawley, is the first Australian to reach the last eight since Tony Roche in 1975. McNamara, with his grass bed serve and volley game may be just the person to give the champion his customary annual scare. But I cannot see him winning.

Connors plays Vijay Amritraj who always gives him trouble. The artistic Indian failed to progress beyond this stage in 1973. He may not yet have the inner belief to see himself as a Wimbledon semi-finalist.

In the lower half, Frawley faces an interesting newcomer in Tim Mayotte, the current U.S. intercollegiate champion and a pro of only two weeks' standing. Even Frawley's grass court expertise may be insufficient to quell the American's undoubted competitive instincts.

McEnroe faces the speedy South African, Johan Kriek, who was a U.S. Open semi-finalist last year, but is not the same man on grass.

The women, as usual, ran truer to form, with only five seeding casualties. The top four look every bit as dominant as the leading men.

In today's quarter finals, Chris Lloyd — whose consistency has won her eight sets at a cost of only 1.75 games in each — should account for Mima Jausovec, despite the Yugoslav's fine 6—4, 7—6 win on Saturday against Andrea Jaeger, the fifth seed.

Also in the top half, Tracy Austin plays her teenage rival and fellow American Pam Shriver. With a game loss average of only 2.25 per set, she should emerge to Wednesday's semi-final.

The 1978 and 1979 champion, Martina Navratilova looks equally commanding, though she did lose one set en route to today's clash with Virginia Ruzici of Romania, who cannot surely beat her on grass.

The winner here will face either the number 2 seeded Czech, Hana Mandlikova (average game loss 2.6 per set) whose back problem is not troubling her, or Wendy Turnbull of Australia who might cause the one seeding upset today.

I have not changed my view that Mrs Evert Lloyd looks the most likely ladies' winner and still believe that we shall see a Borg v. McEnroe men's final. With all the pressure on McEnroe, it begins to look as if Borg may be heading for a record sixth consecutive win.

Action against discrimination

TRADE UNION support is to be sought by the Government for a drive to ensure that safeguards to prevent racial or sex discrimination in the Civil Service are being properly applied.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State for the Civil Service, told the Commons that particular attention would be paid to recruitment.

CRICKET BY TREVOR BAILEY

Australians aim to keep Lords record

THE AUSTRALIANS enjoy Lords even more than most tourists because it has proved a lucky ground for them. Their last Test defeat was way back in 1934, when Hedley Verity bowled them out twice on a "turner" after rain. So Kim Hughes has good reason to be confident that his team will keep up the record in their second encounter with England beginning on Thursday.

Kim's side has done far better than most people, including myself, expected. Although they form one of the weakest batting line-ups to come from down under, as well as short of practice in the middle, they have still managed to win the Prudential one-day trophy and the first Test.

There is, of course, always the chance of an upset in limited overs cricket — as illustrated by the quarter finals of the Benson and Hedges competition last week, when Leicestershire beat the highly fancied and in form Sussex; and when Somerset, predictably cruising home against Yorkshire with wickets and overs in hand, panicked without cause in the final stages to provide a closer and more exciting finish than had seemed likely.

The Australian victory at Trent Bridge stemmed from England's indifferent catching, and because Lillee and Alderman, rather surprisingly, exploited the favourable conditions better than any of our seam quartet.

It was fairly obvious to most, apart from our selectors, that it was unwise to make Ian Botham captain against the West Indies last summer — not so much because he lacked experience but because the climate was entirely wrong.

Ian is one of our few top quality players. His was not the ideal start for what, ideally, should have been a long career at the helm.

Taking over against the West Indies would have been a daunting task even for somebody like James Bond with his uncanny ability to survive and conquer. Not surprisingly, it proved too much for Ian Botham.

Since Ian became captain, England have lost three limited overs series, two Test series and one Test against Australia. Not a single test has been won in this period. There would have been more defeats if the weather had not come to his rescue on several occasions.

To make matters worse, Ian has been noticeably less effective as a player with both bat and ball. At Trent Bridge, most uncharacteristically, he put down several catches.

I am sure Botham's batting form will return and believe he should continue to play his natural aggressive role for which he is best suited. But the decline in his effectiveness as a bowler is far more worrying.

Two years ago, he would surely have picked up a rich haul at Trent Bridge. But he appears to have lost that nip which is so essential to a bowler of his type because it does not allow batsmen sufficient time to adjust to movement, either in the air, or off the pitch.

At the moment, he does not seem to be bustling up to the stumps quite so quickly or bending his back quite so far, and has therefore looked no more than a good seamer instead of the destructive force which brought him 100 Test victims so quickly.

The selectors, now obviously uncertain as to the wisdom of their original decision, have not helped by giving Ian control of an unsatisfactory match to match basis which makes a difficult job all the more difficult.

England have made one change for the second encounter with Australia. Bob Taylor replaces a rather disappointing Downton which makes a nonsense of their picking Bairstow and Downton for the Caribbean, and Humpage for the one day international.

Assuming that the pitch at Lords is as docile as the one in the recent university match, I expect a draw.

The ability of the England attack to bowl Australia out twice is questionable. But Gooch and company should, on such a pitch, more than make up for their lack of success at Nottingham.

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BBC and the Foreign Office

THE EXTERNAL services of the BBC hold a peculiar place in the British heart. When government, and particularly a Tory Government, attacks Bush House it does so at considerable public relations risk. And yet this latest assault on the activities of the BBC in its role as the "voice of Britain" at least provides another opportunity to examine the objectives and costs of an aspect of the British Empire upon which the sun has to set.

It is essential to realise that the external services have a somewhat different relationship with government than do the domestic operations of the BBC. Programmes aimed at foreign audiences are paid for by the Foreign Office, which tends to regard Bush House as simply another contractor paid to do a job of work. The corporation retains editorial control but the Foreign Office pays the piper and expects to call the tune.

Position

This is not the way in which the BBC views the position. While the Foreign Office regards external services as an arm of British foreign policy, the corporation looks upon them as the flagship of British culture and fair-mindedness which produces incidental benefits for the nation. Any policy on the external services' revenue, editorial policy or geographic distribution must start from a judgment about what these services are for.

If the Foreign Office view is accepted then the strengthening of transmission hardware, ensuring that the voice of Britain can at least be heard, and the concentration of that voice on those regions of the world which have least access to relatively free media is justified. Such activities as broadcasting to the French in their own language and ensuring that the Americans know the latest Test score become rather less important than making sure that the Poles, Afghans and Cubans have some idea of what is going on in the world.

The BBC argues that any concentration of services on non-friendly territories would provide support for the view that external services are part of a British propaganda machine. The Government replies that when money is tight someone has to choose priorities.

There is an uneasy relationship between the Foreign Office and the BBC which has worked quite well until now. As a result of the general pressure to cut government spending there has arisen a suspicion that the Foreign Office is trying to shorten the arms' length relationship it has with the BBC in this field—or possibly to offer a deliberately unacceptable cut in its own budget to protect more vulnerable areas.

Arbiter

The position of the Foreign Office as final arbiter on BBC broadcasting to overseas audiences should not be in question. The corporation's performance in this field must be examined somewhere and the Foreign Office is as good a place as any. The doubts arise over the degree of involvement. A touch on the tiller is one thing, the grabbing of the wheel is another.

In its external services Britain has something which is unique in international communications. Although financed by central government, the editorial activities of Bush House are independent of government. While it is impossible to quantify the benefits which the external services bring to the UK, whether in terms of exports or of foreign policy gains, there is no doubt that the quality of the service is widely appreciated throughout the world.

To be unique and precious is not, however, to be insulated eternally from change, whether that change be forced by policy or economy. The key issues are, first, whether the financial arguments for cutting £3m off the external services' budget (out of a total expenditure of some £63m) are sufficiently compelling to offset the damage that will be caused, and, second, whether the delicate relationship between the Foreign Office and the BBC is being altered to the long-term detriment of the service. To sacrifice assorted vernacular services—three at least apparently chosen on the basis of one from each continent—seems arbitrary and ill-judged.

The case for cashless pay

BRITAIN IS very much the odd man out amongst major industrialised countries in continuing to pay over half its workforce in cash every week. In West Germany, only 5 per cent of workers are paid in this fashion, and in the U.S. the proportion drops to a mere 1 per cent.

The cost to society, of having such a large part of the labour force paid in cash is considerable, in terms of the inefficient use of resources and the encouragement of violent crime. Yet progress in weaning workers away from cash wages is slow. On present form, Britain will not have caught up with other countries before the end of the century.

Recent study

There are several reasons why most British workers spurn the use of bank accounts and still prefer their wages in cash each week. Many employees make extensive use of building societies as a simple substitute for bank accounts. The Truck Acts and the Payment of Wages Act give manual workers the right to insist on payment in cash. The trade unions are strongly opposed to any change in the legislation. Long-established habits and attitudes are very difficult to break.

There is a growing feeling both in the Government and industry that the trend towards "cashless pay" and the move from weekly to monthly wage payments should be accelerated. The point was made in a recent study by the Government's Central Policy Review Staff and emphasized again last week at a seminar organized by the High Street banks' payment of wages working group.

Aside from the very real cost savings, which the banks put at £30 per employee a year, the move should help reduce the traditional distinction between blue and white collar workers. In France, for example, where less than a quarter of the workforce is paid in cash, the unions and the Government have actively pursued monthly cashless payment of wages as part of a wider move to single staff status. A similar initiative would be welcome in the UK.

For the banks, the employers and society at large, there are very real advantages to be had in converting workers from weekly cash wages to monthly bank credit transfers. It reduces the need for a large wages department and cuts security costs. It should lead to a reduction in the opportunity for violent robbery and it allows the banks to win new customers among the "great unbanked" sector of the community.

The immediate advantages for employees in moving away from weekly cash wages are less obvious, and this must explain the sluggishness of the transfer, to date. The main obstacle for workers transferring on to a system of cashless pay is that they still need access to cash.

Many factories are located a long way from bank branches making it difficult for workers to draw out money. Banks tend not to be open when people need them. In addition, uncertainty over the future level of bank charges, which has been heightened by the banks' recent moves towards more aggressive pricing policies, makes many employees question the wisdom of opening a bank account.

Played down

The banks play down the problem of poor opening hours and access to bank branches, stressing that the growing use of cash dispensers and changes in banking habits have reduced the disadvantages involved in transferring to cashless pay. However, it is clear from experience so far that employees need to be offered an incentive to transfer from weekly cash wages to monthly credit transfers. They have to share in the savings.

The CBI and others argue that the existence of the Truck Acts is the major obstacle on the way towards cashless pay. However, any attempt to repeal the legislation would be met with strong union opposition and would undermine shop-floor support. Progress is bound to be slow until the banks and employers convince the employees that there are tangible advantages to them in making the switch.

THE U.S. ECONOMY

Behind Washington's buzzwords

By Samuel Brittan, recently in the U.S.

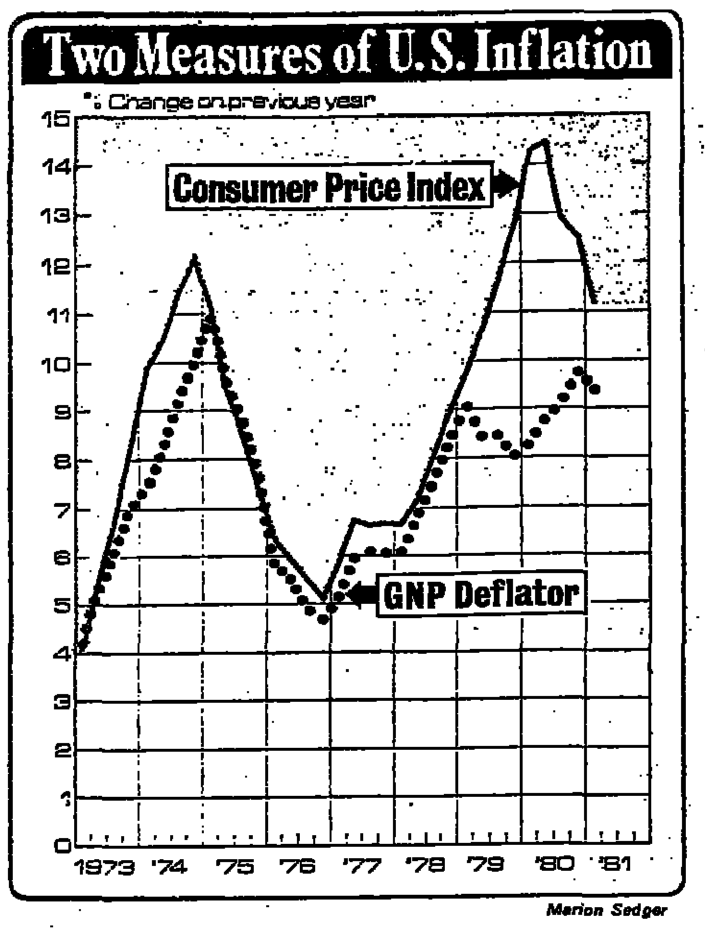
THE first impression of an economic visitor from Europe to Washington is that all the normal signs have been reversed.

A hard-line, sound-money President is stumping the country campaigning for tax reductions. His Democrat critics are, on the other hand, worried about the inflationary effects of the Budget deficit and President Reagan is having an even harder time getting his tax "cuts" than his spending cuts through Congress — an unheard-of reversal of roles.

It would be as if Mrs Thatcher and M Raymond Barre were urging tax cuts in Britain and France in the name of sound finance, while Mr Denis Healey, Mr St John Stevas, M Jacques Delors and M Jacques Chirac were combining to say that the cuts were an irresponsible exercise in deficit finance.

The magic slogan which has bought about this role reversal is "supply side economics." There would be complete agreement between many of the economic advisers of both President Carter and President Reagan, that "What is new in the slogan is not true, and what is true is not new."

But the words play such a key part of Washington discourse that it is necessary to say something about their meaning and history.



Marion Sedger

"Supply side economics," before it became a Washington buzz-term, simply meant measures to improve the efficiency of individual markets.

In the context of U.S. Republican policy the words mean something very different. Throughout most of the 1970's the Republican theory—if not always practice — was that inflation had to be fought by tight money and reduced budget deficits. The approach was easy to deride as "the old time religion" and there was a market in the party for something more "exciting" and "positive."

This was provided by a theory, most vigorously promoted by a young economist named Arthur Laffer, that tax cuts would stimulate economic activity so much that they could pay for themselves even without public spending cuts.

The recipe seems very similar to the "New Economics" of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, who also cut taxes to stimulate the economy. But although the conclusions were the same, the arguments were different. The "new economists" were Keynesians of the familiar British variety who wanted to stimulate demand and did not mind budget deficits. The Lafferites on the other hand thought that Treasury receipts would rise because people would work harder and more enterprisingly—as well as save more —if the tax rates were cut.

Mainstream Republican economists were no more enamoured of Lafferism than mainstream Democrats. It was easy enough to see that top marginal rates such as the former British ones of 98 per cent on investment income and 83 per cent on earned income, were purely political and brought less than nothing to the Treasury. But it did not follow that taxes in the 30 per cent marginal tax bracket of the typical citizen could be cut without revenue loss, and that previous Treasury Secretaries were just too dumb to seize the easy path to popularity.

Supply side economics thus became transformed into a conventional conservative attempt to cut spending and taxes more or less simultaneously. What is left is the rhetoric and a very gradualist approach to reducing the Budget deficit.

The present Republican position is thus satisfactory to the school I once called the "echt monetarists" represented by Milton Friedman and Beryl Sprinkel, the Treasury Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, who favour lower spending and taxation on principle, and who do not believe that budget deficits cause inflation unless *they are financed by the Fed* instead of by borrowing in the market.

There are several snags and reservations about the Reagan plan. Present tax-cutting plans are summarised as "5, 10, 10," by which is meant a 5 per cent cut in nominal tax rates late in the fiscal year ending in 1981, followed by further 10 per cent cuts in 1982 and 1983.

The proposals will, however, do no more than the Rooker-Wise-Lawson Finance Act provisions in the UK which adjust tax thresholds automatically for inflation unless Parliament agrees to a waiver as it did this year.

Federal tax as a percentage of personal income is expected to fall only from 11.9 per cent in 1981 to 10.6 per cent in 1984 (or from 15.2 per cent to 14 per cent if social security taxes are added).

There will thus be no supply side experiment as far as the ordinary taxpayer is concerned, although corporations will benefit from some liberalisation.

The fact is that to accommodate increases in military spending as well as rising built-in social security commitments, the energetic Budget Director David Stockman has had to hack away at every kind of subsidy or grant, whether energy, food stamps or child nutrition, where any discretion remained.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel (right) believes the way to lower and more stable interest rates is to avoid even short-term 'systematic deviations' from monetary targets until confidence in them is established

There is a more technical snag. As the table shows, the Reagan projections provide for a growth in nominal GDP or "total spending" averaging 12 per cent between 1980 and 1984. The present underlying "M1B" monetary growth target of 3½ to 6 per cent is insufficient to finance this, even allowing for the trend annual rise in velocity of 4 per cent. If one takes into account the commitment to halve monetary growth by 1986, the discrepancy becomes greater still.

CARTER VERSUS REAGAN

Assumption	Actual 1980	Estimated 1981	1982	1983	1984
			Growth-rates*		
GNP, current $ ("total spending")					
Reagan	9.8	11.0	13.3	11.8	10.1
Carter	9.8	12.3	12.6	12.2	11.5
GNP constant 1972 dollars					
Reagan	− 0.0	1.4	5.2	4.9	4.2
Carter	− 0.0	1.7	3.5	3.7	3.7
GNP deflator					
Reagan	9.9	9.5	7.7	6.6	5.7
Carter	9.9	10.4	8.8	8.2	7.5
Consumer price index					
Reagan	12.6	10.5	7.2	6.0	5.1
Carter	12.6	12.6	9.6	8.2	7.5
			Annual averages		
Unemployment rate, per cent					
Reagan	7.2	7.8	7.2	6.6	6.4
Carter	7.2	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.7
Treasury bill rate, percent					
Reagan	11.5	11.1	8.9	7.8	7.0
Carter	11.5	13.5	11.0	9.4	8.5

*Fourth quarter of one year to that of the next.

Source: Brookings Institution

In practice, this dilemma is all too likely to solve itself through the ingenuity of the financial system in devising financial assets outside official reserve requirements or outside official definition of money, which will, of course, serve to increase velocity.

The Fed expects to report success in keeping M1B below the upper official guideline in the first half of 1981; but it also expects an overshoot in nearly all the other monetary aggregates. It is toying with the idea of shifting the emphasis from M1B to a broader battery or average of aggregates.

Beryl Sprinkel on the other hand, would prefer it to shift to a monetary basis target (i.e. bank reserves plus notes and coins) or one for bank reserves alone, so that shifts between financial assets become of less concern.

A more serious worry is the extremely optimistic view of output and prices in the Reagan projections. No recession, but simply moderately slow growth, is forecast for 1981. For 1982-84, growth rates of 4 to 5 per cent are projected. This is much higher than the recent historical average of 3 per cent and a productivity growth of around 1 per cent.

Such optimistic projections fly in the face of most past experience which suggests that even a gradualist programme for bringing inflation down from 10 to 5 per cent involves a stabilisation crisis or recession until expectations change and credibility is established. Simply shifting output and inflation assumptions from the super-optimistic Reagan ones to the merely optimistic Carter ones, would raise the prospective 1982 budget deficit from $45bn to $70bn.

The prospect should be taken seriously as a recession is on the cards towards the end of this year or in 1982. For the Fed is likely to respond to criticism of its performance by making sure that its official target is not exceeded and that any errors are on the downward side.

The Fed makes no secret of its sympathy for European critics who called for a shift of emphasis from high interest rates to fiscal tightness. The great intellectual weakness of the critics, however, is they cannot hazard the remotest guess of how much interest rates could fall if the Budget deficit were reduced by any specified amounts.

Fed policymakers would put the emphasis not on mechanistic calculations but on the effect of a lower deficit on influencing inflationary expectations. But if one wants a favourable effect on expectations, why not make Mr Sprinkel vice-chairman of the Fed next year when Frederick Schultz, the present vice-chairman, retires?

The fact that the Fed will mobilise many big banking guns to lobby in the White House against such an appointment makes it all the more attractive. The buck would have found a *resting* place and we would at least have a chance of following one policy through to its logical conclusion. The results could hardly be worse than they have been in the past decade.

Sprinkel himself, who makes a point of always talking on the record, insists that his present post is "the best in Washington apart from the Secretary of the Treasury." He also insists that he dislikes high and fluctuating interest rates for domestic U.S. reasons as well as for international ones. (The biggest political threat to tight money is the vulnerability of the Savings and Loans associations, who have, unlike the British building societies, lent to home buyers at fixed rates and borrowed at fluctuating ones.)

But in contrast to the Fed, Sprinkel believes that the way to lower and more stable interest rates is to avoid even short-term "systematic deviations" from the monetary targets until confidence in them is established. He has said that such a policy could reduce short-term rates to 15 per cent by the end of the year.

Even lower rates than that could be achieved as a result of recession or weak growth without settling any of the technical points at issue between Sprinkel and the Fed.

Yet it would be wrong to close without mentioning the Reagan luck, which applies as much to the statistical indicators as to the failure of assassination attempts.

Because of its well-known distortions, the Consumer Price Index gives a very erratic idea of inflation. As the chart shows, the distortions worked against President Carter but are favouring the new president. The various shocks which raised even the true inflation rate above that warranted by monetary growth, have also gone into reverse. Oil prices and food price increases are down and the rising dollar (whether you call that luck or confidence) has also helped to reduce inflation.

In addition the proportion of young workers, who are especially prone to unemployment, is now falling rapidly. So even if the growth targets in the table are missed by quite a long way, unemployment may not rise very much and stay well below British proportions.

Going behind the headlines and the slogans, one should defend the U.S. Administration from the pinpricking, negative and self-contradictory attacks of the Europeans on its counter-inflation policy.

It is worth the effort to preserve the real purchasing power of the one truly international currency even if one does not believe that there is a Reagan supply side elixir to praise or condemn.

MEN AND MATTERS

Clashing symbols

The International Olympic Committee, that last bastion of world brotherhood and gentlemanly amateurism, appears to have got itself into a most uncivil wrangle with its UK offshoot, the British Olympic Association. The root of the matter, as in all things amateur, if of course money.

Latching on the prodigious growth of sports sponsorship, the IOC thought it had found a major gold mine in the olympic "pictograms" — the stylised stick-man symbols representing the 35 different olympic sports. But after agreeing an astounding 70-year exclusive licensing deal granting sole agency rights to the Geneva-based Interlicence Corporation which in turn promised revenues of anything up to £25m over five years, a howl of protest was heard from London.

The BOA pointed out that, with thousands of sports goods manufacturers scrambling for Olympic endorsement, the IOC was drastically undermining the ability of National Olympic Committees to use their home-grown symbols to earn revenue essential to field teams.

What is more, George Nicholson, the BOA's Appeal Secretary, insisted that national committees were constitutionally entitled to exclusive rights to award Olympic symbols to clients within their own territories, thereby excluding Interlicence Corporation's worldwide agency.

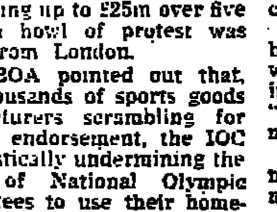
"I cannot tell you how important this is," Nicholson said. "For Moscow we raised £850,000 and around half of that was brought in directly or indirectly through our rights to our Olympic symbol. For the next Olympics we will be looking for around £1m."

Following the British protest, the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has circulated a letter to all National Olympic Committees assuring them that each had the right to oppose incursions into their territories.

Stanley Shefler, the Canadian-born founder of Interlicence who has already sunk SwFr 2.5m into his scheme, confesses he is "concerned" by the development.

"We have discussed this matter with the IOC," he told me, "and our contract clearly says that though the co-operation of the National Olympic *Committees is desirable, it is* not absolutely necessary.

"We intend to go ahead with the programme in spite of the opposition."



"Final set — with Adidas just ahead of Dunlop."

Wordy cause

The battle for the language has now spread across the Atlantic which will be welcome news at the Salford headquarters of the Plain English Campaign.

The announcement of their 1981 Plain English awards, made in conjunction with the National Consumer Council, includes a chilling example of the work of the opposition. An amendment to the Hammersmith and Fulham District Plan, the campaigners relate, required the deletion of the word bottlenecks and the insertion of "localised capacity deficiencies."

But in Washington things are looking up, with Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldridge ordering his civil servants to use only plain English in the daily compilation of the memo mountain.

One worries about the State Department, however. The globe-trotting impresario David Frost found time between air traffic controllers' strikes to tell me of the latest "Haigism." Apparently the Secretary of State has updated "at this moment of time," so loved by his former boss Richard Nixon, to a thoroughly modern "at this juncture of maturation."

Times-a-changin'

"When you ain't got nothing, you got nothing to lose," sings Bob Dylan in the song which became the anthem of the cynical arm of the sixties counterculture, "Like a Rolling Stone."

But when you have staged what you hope will prove a desperately oversubscribed market, and get it wrong, you stand to lose very heavily indeed. Which was pretty much the shape in which the ticket touts for Dylan's current series of London concerts seemed to find themselves over the weekend, unloading their holdings to improvident fans between Earls Court tube station and the entrance to the nearby arena.

With tickets for the Monday and Tuesday concerts still available last night, the touts have been thrown back on their persuasive guile. Some were securing £12.50 for £7.50 face value tickets on the tube station platform. But closer to the stadium, with oversubscribed private buyers glutting the professional secondaory market, as little as £5 was the going rate for Friday night's £8.50 seats.

It is almost three years since Dylan last played London, then to arenas which were comfortably sold out in advance. But a more apposite contrast to this week's modest enthusiasm might be the reception afforded fellow-American musician Bruce Springsteen last month. Springsteen's first major London concerts were played seven years ago, when he arrived with a top-heavy reputation as the "new Dylan" which all but sank him under the weight of advance publicity.

But for Springsteen's recent season at the Wembley conference centre, the touts had little trouble in securing £20, and in some cases as much as £50, for the coveted tickets to what have proved, so far, to have been the most impressive concerts in London this year.

Bushwhacker

In the light of the broadcasting cuts at Bush House, I must draw the Government's attention to the insidious activities of the Soviet opposition. My listening station in York reports that the Russians have just launched an alarmingly trendy 24-hour station called Moscow World Service, which broadcasts on at least 20 different wavelengths with a similar number of high-powered transmitters.

Bill Lang, who has been monitoring the airwaves for around 20 years, reports that the service pays a substantial compliment to our own World Service, *substituting the* Lilliburlero tune with Moscow Night, and mimicking Big Ben with chimes from the Kremlin.

The news itself keeps up the old Russian tradition, centring world events on heroic Soviet steel production figures, but adding international flavour with reports of the historic sacrifices of Irish freedom fighters.

None of this would be of the least concern, had not Lang warned me that his fellow radio hams are beginning to give MWS quite a following, with letters from enthusiasts (and sometimes even critics) from the British Isles read out on the air. However, I was reassured that an immediate *jamming programme* was unnecessary when Lang told me that the station had recently put out a 40-minute programme of Portuguese pop.

Observer

Good judges wear many hats

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY
Monday June 29 1981

Latin America

The countries of Latin America are growing apart and the efforts to promote regional co-operation are failing as the gap between the richest and the poorest of them widens. Despite this there are many forces which continue to try to maintain a spirit of unity among them.

Inter-American Development Bank

The Trans-Andean Higlway linking Chile and Argentina

Ties that bind are under strain

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Latin America Correspondent

HAS Latin America ceased to exist?

Do the two words "Latin America" represent anything more than a geographical term referring to the land which lies *between Mexico's border with* the U.S. at one extreme and Cape Horn at the other?

Is that score of countries which in the past felt a great sense of community today moving apart?

Is "Latin America" as empty a phrase as "Arab unity" in recent times has seemed to be?

There are powerful arguments in favour of saying "yes" to all these questions. The region clearly has long lost that political unity it enjoyed for three centuries from the time it was discovered by Latins from Europe. The crowns of Spain and Portugal which divided it neatly between them lost control a century and a half ago and, indeed, the crows of Portugal no longer exists.

The successor states have long since gone their own ways and have enjoyed, or suffered, almost every imaginable form of government. The political experience of Latin America ranges from one of the first and best forms of the welfare state in Uruguay to the permanent instability of Bolivia and its comic opera generals, and the guerrilla revolutions of Cuba and Nicaragua.

The events of the past few decades have underlined the political diversity of the region. Whereas for much of the past century and the beginning of this most of the countries of the region espoused liberal republican forms and paid at least lip service to electoral rights, however narrowly interpreted, today these forms are increasingly *been questioned and discarded* by governments of the right and the left. The result is a political patchwork of amazing complexity in the region.

The loss of political homogeneity has been accompanied by the appearance of widening economic gaps among the countries.

The rise in oil prices since 1973 has transformed Venezuelan society, for instance, from one of fair prosperity to one of enormous affluence for the public sector and for certain particularly privileged groups.

The same oil price rise has pushed the poorest countries into situations of extreme emergency. Haiti, for example, with no oil is dependent on the good will of donor countries and organisations if it is to mantain its already rudimentary economic structure. The average Haitian earns in a year what a Venezuelan earns in a month.

In between those extremes there have opened up disparities between countries which look as though they will never be closed.

Has Paraguay which, in the middle of the past century, was in some ways more industrial*ised than Brazil or Argentina* any chance today of rivalling the range and diversity of goods produced by its neighbours?

Vicious circle

To make matters worse, the growth of disparities among the Latin American states has already become something of a *vicious circle in that it severely* hampers what efforts are still being made to achieve economic integration. The integration process which at one time seemed so promising is in a state of crisis. The political travails of Central America, whether manifested by the so-called Football War between Honduras and El Salvador or by the domestic insurrections of the sort which took place in Nicaragua, are taking place in El Salvador or are developing fast as in Guatemala, have all but wrecked the Central American Common Market.

In the Andean Pact, the departure of Chile shortly after the accession to power of General Pinochet in 1973, the difficulties in Bolivia, the doubts about the process in Peru itself have all slowed what the founder had hoped would be fast progress towards the emergence of a common market. At the same time the continuing rise in oil prices has further distanced Venezuela from its poorer Andean partners and made the job of competing with their neighbours an immensely difficult one for Venezuelan industrialists.

The Latin American Free Trade Association, after years of suspended animation, was finally put out of its misery this year and replaced by ALADI, the Latin American Integration Association, whose aims are anything but ambitious. On the fringes of Latin America proper the small countries of the Caribbean community are seeing the same difficulties of parochialism, petty jealousies and disparities of income all but sink their integration plans.

None of this has been helped by the fact that over the years the region has been losing out in its traditional trades to other areas of the developing world or even to the industrialised countries. Between 1960 and 1977 Latin America's share of world exports fell from 47 per cent to 26 per cent in bauxite, from 23 per cent to 12 per cent in meat, from 70 per cent to 52 per cent in coffee and from 58 per cent to 46 per cent in sugar.

Despite all the foregoing developments those who continue to maintain that Latin America *is* more than a geographical term are not entirely bereft of arguments for their point of view. The principal, and perhaps the strongest, argument might be best expressed by saying that, despite everything, blood is thicker than statistics. The historical and cultural forces that have shaped the region in the past are still very potent, be they the common languages of Spanish and Portuguese, similar legal systems, the strength of the military tradition in many countries or the often pervasive influence of the Catholic church.

Within this cultural framework there operates a number of agencies which are doing their best to maintain and strengthen the idea of the region as something more than just a geographical entity. In the business sphere virtually every country has an organised group of traders and industrialists who can see benefits to themselves and their countries in region co-operation.

Chauvinisms

Their job is one of chipping away at the chauvinisms and political hatreds of one country for another that politicians are sometimes keen to exploit.

The integration and co-operation process is also aided by the regional organisations, most notably the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, but also the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organisation of American States which plan, argue and finance new schemes to link countries. In addition there are the scores of special-interest groups in Latin America, be they the *Latin American* church conferences, the Latin American Energy Organisation, the travel agents or the footballers or baseball players.

There can, however, be no certainty that the strong forces that are pushing Latin Americans apart will be overcome by those which are seeking to keep the region together as more *than a geographical term.*

The politicians in some countries still think that their own circumstances are so exceptional that they can safely reject co-operation with their neighbours. Many Brazilians, for instance, feel that Brazil is big and potentially rich enough to go it alone, many Argentines feel they are white and "European" enough, many Venezuelans say they are rich enough, many Chileans argue they are tough enough to do without their neighbours.

If such ideas gain much more currency the region will undoubtedly fly apart.

CONTENTS

Economy II
Foreign policy II
Finance IV
Profile: banker IV
Population V
Profile: author V
Food VI
Energy VI
Mining VII
Industry VII
Foreign investment VIII
Whisky imports VIII
Museums VIII
Profile: politician IX
Military balance IX
Amazonia X
Profile : Archbishop X

GNP GROWTH RATES

(%)

	1970-74	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Argentina	5.2	−0.9	−1.7	4.9	−3.4	8.5	0.0
Bolivia	5.8	5.1	6.8	3.4	2.8	1.4	1.0
Brazil	11.5	5.7	9.0	4.7	6.0	6.4	7.5
Colombia	6.9	4.3	4.2	4.8	8.8	5.1	4.0
Costa Rica	7.1	2.1	5.5	8.9	5.7	4.3	2.5
Chile	2.6	−11.3	4.1	8.6	7.8	8.5	5.5
Dominican Republic	10.1	5.2	6.7	5.5	2.3	3.6	3.0
Ecuador	8.6	6.8	9.3	7.5	5.4	5.4	4.5
El Salvador	4.9	5.6	4.0	5.9	4.4	−3.1	−6.0
Guatemala	6.4	1.9	7.4	7.8	5.5	5.0	3.0
Haiti	4.7	2.2	5.3	1.3	3.9	1.9	3.5
Honduras	3.5	−2.0	7.0	5.8	7.9	6.8	1.0
Mexico	6.2	4.1	2.1	3.3	7.3	8.0	7.5
Nicaragua	5.3	2.2	5.0	6.3	−7.2	−24.8	14.0
Panama	5.2	0.6	−1.1	0.2	3.7	5.0	5.0
Paraguay	6.4	5.0	7.5	11.8	10.3	9.0	9.5
Peru	6.3	3.3	3.0	−1.2	−1.8	3.8	3.5
Uruguay	0.8	4.5	2.6	3.4	3.9	8.4	5.0
Venezuela	5.2	5.9	8.4	6.8	3.2	0.7	1.0
Average for Latin America	7.2	3.3	4.6	4.5	4.6	6.3	5.3

Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America.

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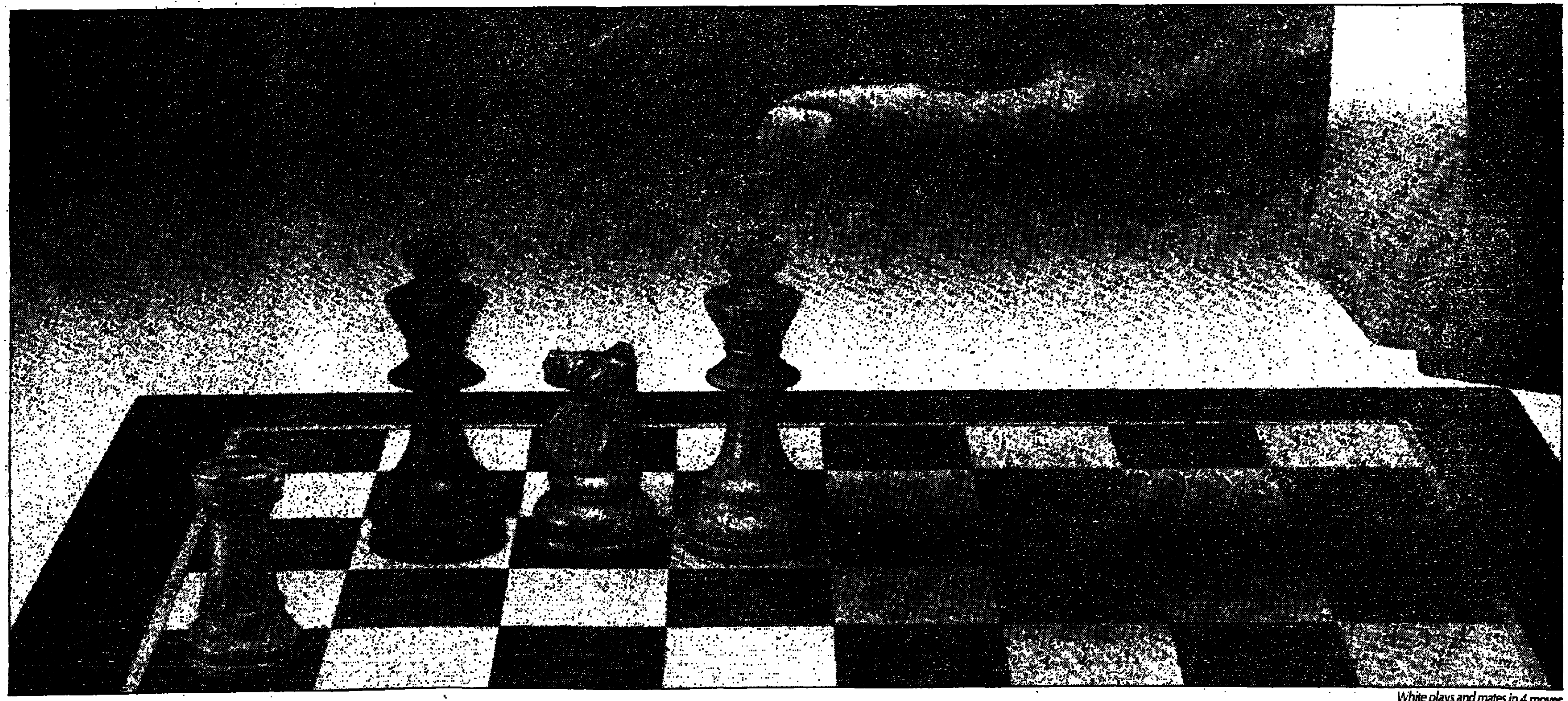

White plays and mates in 4 moves

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